
DE FOE'S VOYAGE
ROUND THE
WORLD

THE rocks and precipices of the Andes on our right hand, had here and there vast clefts and entrances, which looked as if they had been different thorough-fares; but when we came to look full into them, we could see no passage at the farther end, and that they went off in slopes, and with gullies made by the water, which in hasty rains, came pouring down from the hills, and which at a distance,

A 3

distance, made such noises as it is impossible to conceive, unless by having seen and heard the like before; for the water falling from a height twenty times as high as our own monument, and perhaps much higher, and meeting in the passage with many dashes and interruptions, it is impossible to describe how the sound crossing and interfering mingled itself, and the several noises sunk one into another, increasing the whole, as the many waters joining increased the main stream.

We entered this passage about two miles the first night: After the first length, which as I said, held about three quarters of a mile, we turned away to the South short on the right hand; the river leaving us, seemed

ed to come through a very narrow but deep hollow of the mountains, where there was little more breadth at the bottom than the channel took up, though the rocks inclined backward as they ascended, as placed in several stages, though all horrid and irregular, and we could see nothing but blackness and terror all the way. I was glad our passage did not turn on that side, but wondered that we should leave the river, and the more when I found, that in the way we went, having first mounted gently a green pleasant slope, it declined again, and we saw a new rivulet began in the middle, and the water running South East or thereabouts: This discovery made me ask if the water went away into the the new world beyond the hills?

A 4

hills? My patron smiled and said, No, Seignior, not yet; we shall meet with the other river again very quickly; and so we found it the next morning.

When we came a little farther, we found the passage open, and we came to a very pleasant plain, which declined a little gradually, widening to the left or East side; on the right side of this, we saw another vast opening like the first, which went in about half a mile, and then closed up as the first had done, sloping up to the top of the hills a most astonishing inconceivable height.

My patron stopping here, and getting down, or alighting from his mule, gave him to his man, and asking me to alight, told me, this was the first night's entertainment I was to meet with in
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the Andes, and hoped I was prepared for it. I told him, that I might very well content to accept of such entertainment, in a journey of my own contriving, as he was content to take up with, in compliment to me.

I looked round, to see if there were any huts or cots of the mountaineers thereabouts, but I perceived none; only I observed something like a house, and it was really a house of some of the said mountaineers upon the top of a precipice as high from where we stood, as the summit of the cupula of St. Paul's, and I saw some living creatures, whether men or women, I could not tell, looking from thence down upon us: However, I understood afterwards, that they had ways to come at their dwelling, which were very easy and agreeable, and

had lanes and plains where they fed their cattle, and had every thing growing that they desired.

My patron making a kind of an invitation to me to walk, took me up that dark chasm, or opening on the right hand, which I have just mentioned. Here, sir, said he, if you will venture to walk a few steps, it is likely we may shew you some of the product of this country; but recollecting that night was approaching, he added, I see it is too dark; perhaps it will be better to defer it till the morning: Accordingly we walked back towards the place where we had left our mules and servants, and when we came thither, there was a complete camp fixed, three very handsome tents raised, and a bar set up at a distance, where
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the mules were tied one to another to graze, and the servants, and the baggage, lay together with an open tent over them.

My patron led me into the first tent, and told me, he was obliged to let me know, that I must make a shift with that lodging, the place not affording any better.

Here we had quilts laid very commodiously for me and my three comrades, and we lodged very comfortably; but before we went to rest, we had the third tent to go to, in which there was a very handsome table, covered with a cold treat of roasted mutton and beef, very well dressed; some potted or baked venison, with pickles, preserves, and fine sweet-meats of various sorts.

Here we ate very freely, but he bade us depend upon it, that we should not fare so well the next night; and so it would be worse every night, till we came to lie intirely at a mountaineers; but he was better to us than he pretended.

In the morning, we had our chocolate as regularly as we used to have it in his own house, and we were soon ready to pursue our journey. We went winding now from the South East to the left, till our course looked East by North, when we came again to have the river in view. But I should have observed here, that my two midshipmen, and two of my patron's servants, had, by his direction, been very early in the morning, climbing up the rocks in the opening on the right hand, and
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had come back again about a quarter of an hour after we set out; when missing my two men, I enquired for them, and my patron said, they were coming; for, it seems, he saw them at a distance, and so we halted for them.

When they were come almost up to us, he called to his men in Spanish, to ask if they had had *Una bon Vejo*? They answered, *Poco, Poco*: And when they came quite up, one of my midshipmen shewed me three or four small bits of clean perfect gold, which they had picked up in the hill or gullet where the water trickled down from the rocks; and the Spaniard told them, that had they had time, they should have found much more, the water being quite down, and nobody having been there

there since the last hard rain. One of the Spaniards had three small bits in his hand also; I said nothing for the present, but charged my midshipmen to mark the place, and so we went on.

We followed up the stream of this water for three days more, encamping every night as before; in which time we passed by several such openings into the rocks, on either side. On the fourth day we had the prospect of a very pleasant valley and river below us on the North side; keeping its course almost in the middle; the valley reaching near four miles in length, and in some places near two miles broad.

This sight was perfectly surprising, because here we found the vale fruitful, level, and inhabited, there being several small villages

villages or clusters of houses, such as the Chilians live in, which are low houses, covered with a kind of sedge, and sheltered with little rows of thick grown trees, but of what kind we knew not.

We saw no way through the valley, nor which way we were to go out; but perceived it every where bounded with prodigious mountains, look to which side of it we would: We kept still on the right, which was now the South East side of the river, and as we followed it up the stream, it was still less than at first, and lessened every step we went, because of the number of rills we left behind us: And here we encamped the fifth time, and all this while the Spanish gentleman victualled us: Then we turned again to the
the

the right, where we had a new and beautiful prospect of another valley, as broad as the other, but not above a mile in length.

After we had passed through this valley, my patron rode up to a poor cottage of a Chilian Indian, without any ceremony, and calling us all about him, told us, that there we would go to dinner: We saw a smoke indeed *in* the house, rather than coming *out* of it; and the little that did, smothered through a hole in the roof instead of a chimney: However to this house, as to an inn, my patron had sent away his major domo and another servant; and there they were as busy as two professed cooks, boiling and stewing goats flesh, and fowls, making up soups, broths, and other messes, which it seems they were used to provide,

vide, and which, however homely the cottage was, we found very savoury and good.

Immediately a loose tent was pitched, and we had our table set up, and dinner served in, and having eaten it, and afterwards reposed ourselves (as the custom there is) we were ready to travel again.

I had leisure all this while to observe, and wonder at the admirable structure of this part of the country, which may serve in my opinion, for the eighth wonder of the world; that is to say, supposing there were but seven before. We had in the middle of the day, indeed, a very hot sun, and the reflection from the mountains made it still hotter; but the height of the rocks on every side began to cast long shadows before three o'clock, except

except where the openings looked towards the west, and as soon as those shadows reached us, the cool breezes of the air came naturally on, and made our way exceeding pleasant and refreshing.

The place we were in was green and flourishing, and the soil well cultivated by the poor industrious Chilians, who lived here in perfect solitude, and pleased with their liberty from the tyranny of the Spaniards, who very seldom visited them, and never molested them, being pretty much out of their way, except when they came for hunting and diversion; and then they used the Chilians always civilly, because they were obliged to them for their assistance in their diversions; the Chilians of those valleys being very active, strong, and nimble fellows.

By

By this means, most of them were furnished with fire-arms, powder and shot, and were very good marks-men; but as to violence against any one, they entertained no thought of that kind as I could perceive, but were content with their way of living, which was easy and free.

The tops of the mountains here, the valleys being so large, were much plainer to be seen than where the passages were narrow; for there the height was so great that we could see but little. Here, at several distances (the rocks towering one over another) we might see smoke come out of some, snow lying upon others, trees and bushes growing all around; and goats, wild asses, and other creatures, which we could hardly distinguish, running about in various parts of the country.

When

When we had passed through this second valley, I perceived we came to a narrower passage, and something like the first; the entrance into it indeed was smooth, and above a quarter of a mile broad, and it went winding away to the North, and then again turned round to the North East, afterwards almost due East, and then to the South East, and so to South South East; and this frightful narrow strait, with the hanging rocks almost closing together on the top, whose height we could neither see nor guess at, continued about three days journey more, most of the way ascending gently before us: As to the river, it was by this time quite lost; but we might see that on any occasion of rain, or of the melting of the snow on the mountains,

tains, there was a hollow in the middle of the valley, through which the water made its way, and on either hand the sides of the hills were full of the like gullies, made by the violence of the rain, where not the earth only but the rocks themselves, even the very stone, seemed to be worn and penetrated by the continual fall of the water.

Here my patron shewed me, that in the hollow which I mentioned in the middle of this way, and at the bottom of those gullies, or places worn as above in the rocks, there were often found pieces of gold, and sometimes after a rain, very great quantities; and that there were few of the little Chilian cottages which I had seen, where they had not sometimes a pound or two of gold dust and lumps of gold

gold by them; and he was mistaken, if I was willing to stay and make the experiment, if we did not find some even then, in a very little search.

The Chilian mountaineer, at whose house we stopped to dine, had gone with us, and he hearing my patron say thus, ran presently to the hollow channel in the middle, where there was a kind of fall or break in it, which the water by falling, perhaps, two or three feet, had made a hollow deeper than the rest; and which, though there was no water then running, yet had water in it, perhaps the quantity of a barrel or two. Here, with the help of two of the servants, and a kind of scoop, he presently threw out the water, with the sand, and whatever was at bottom among it, into the ordinary
water

water course; the water falling thus hard, every scoop full upon the sand or earth that came out of the scoop before it, washed a great deal of it away; and among that which remained, we might plainly see little lumps of gold shining as big as grains of sand, and sometimes one or two a little bigger.

This was demonstration enough to us; I took up some small grains of it, about the quantity of half a quarter of an ounce, and left my midshipmen to take up more, and they stayed indeed so long that they could scarce see their way to overtake us, and brought away about two ounces in all, the Chilian and the servants very freely giving them all they found.

When we had travelled about nine miles more in this winding, frightful,

frightful, narrow way, it began to grow towards night, and my patron talked of taking up our quarters as we had before; but his gentleman put him in mind of a Chilian, one of their old servants, who lived in a turning among the mountains, about half a mile out of our way, and where we might be accommodated with a house or place, at least for our cookery. Very true, says our patron, we will go thither, and there Seignior, says he, turning to me, you shall see an emblem of complete felicity, even in the middle of this seat of horror; and you shall see a prince greater and more truly so than King Philip, who is the greatest man in the world.

According we went softly on, his gentleman having advanced before, and in about half a mile,
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we found a turning or opening on our left, where we beheld a deep large valley, almost circular, and of about a mile diameter, and abundance of houses or cottages interspersed all over it, so that the whole valley looked like an inhabited village, and the ground like a planted garden.

We, who, as I said, had been for some miles ascending, were so high above the valley, that it looked as the low lands in England do below Box-Hill, in Surry; and I was going to ask how we should get down? But as we were come into a wider space than before, so we had more day-light; for though the hollow way had rendered it near dusk before, now it was almost clear day again.

Here we parted with the first
VOL. III. B Chilian

Chilian that I mentioned, and I ordered one of my midshipmen to give him a hat, and a piece of black baize, enough to make him a cloak, which so obliged the man, that he knew not what way to testify his joy: But I knew what I was doing in this; and I ordered my midshipman to do it, that he might make his acquaintance with him against another time, and it was not a gift ill bestowed, as will appear in its place.

We were now obliged to quit our mules, who all took up their quarters at the top of the hill, while we, by footings made in the rocks, descended, as we might say, down a pair of stairs of half a mile long, but with many plain places between, like foot paces, for the ease of going and coming.

Thus

Thus winding and turning, to avoid the declivity of the hill, we came very safe to the bottom, where my patron's gentleman brought our new landlord, that was to be, who came to pay his compliment to us.

He was dressed in a jerkin made of otter skin, like a doublet, a pair of long Spanish breeches, of leather, dressed after the Spanish fashion, green, and very soft, and which looked very well, but what the skin was I could not guess; he had over it a mantle, of a kind of cotton, dyed in two or three grave brown colours, and thrown about him like a Scotsman's plaid; he had shoes of a particular make, tied on like sandals, flat heeled, no stockings, his breeches hanging down below the calf of his leg, and his shoes lacing up above his ancles; he

had on a cap of the skin of some small beast like a Rocoon, with a bit of the tail hanging out from the crown of his head backward, a long pole in his hand, and a servant as oddly dressed as himself, carried his gun; he had neither spado nor dagger.

When our patron came up, the Chilian stepped forward, and made him three very low bows, and then they talked together, not in Spanish, but in a kind of Mountain jargon, some Spanish, and some Chilian, of which I scarce understood one word: After a few words, I understood he said something of a stranger come to see, and then, I suppose, added, the passages of the mountains; then the Chilian came towards me, made me three bows, and bade me welcome in Spanish: As soon as he

he had said that, he turns to his barbarian, I mean his servant, for he was as ugly a looked fellow as ever I saw, and taking his gun from him, presented it to me. My patron bade me take it, for he saw me at a loss what to do, telling me, that it was the greatest compliment that a Chilian could pay to me; he would be very ill pleased, and out of humour, if it was not accepted, and would think we did not want to be friendly with him.

As we had not given this Chilian any notice of our coming, more than a quarter of an hour, we could not expect great matters of entertainment, and, as we carried our provision with us, we did not stand in much need of it; but we had no reason to complain.

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This man's habitation was the same as the rest: low, and covered with a sedge, or a kind of reed, which we found grew very plentifully in the valley where he lived; he had several pieces of ground round his dwelling, inclosed with walls, made very artificially with small stones, and no mortar; these inclosed grounds were planted with several kinds of garden-stuff for his household, such as plantains, Spanish cabages, green cocoa, and other things of the growth of their own country, and two of them with European wheat.

He had five or six apartments in his house, every one of them had a door into the open air, and into one another, and two of them were very large and decent, had long tables on one side made after their own way,
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and benches to sit to them like our country peoples long tables in England, and mattresses like couches all along the other side, with skins of several sorts of wild creatures laid on them to repose on in the heat of the day, as is the usage among the Spaniards.

Our people set up their tents and beds abroad as before; but my patron told me, the Chilian would take it very ill, if he and I did not take up our lodging in his house, and we had two rooms provided, very magnificent in their way.

The mattresses we lay on, had a large canopy over it, spread like the crown of a tent, and covered with a large piece of cotton, white as milk, and which came round every way like a curtain; so that if it had been in

the open field, it would have been a complete covering; the bed, such as it was, might be nearly as hard as a quilt, and the covering was of the same cotton as the curtain-work, which, it seems, is the manufacture of the Chilian women, and is made very dexterously; it looked wild, but agreeably enough, and proper to the place; so I slept very comfortably in it.

But I must confess, I was surprized at the aspect of things in the night here. It was, as I told you above, near night when we came to this man's cottage (palace I should have called it) and while we were taking our repast, which was very good, it grew quite night.

We had wax candles brought in to accommodate us with light, which it seems, my patron's man
had

had provided; and the place had so little communication with the air by windows, that we saw nothing of what was without doors.

After supper, my patron turned to me, and said, come, Seigneur, pray prepare yourself to take a walk: What, in the dark, said I, in such a country as this? No, no, says he, it is never dark here, you are now come to the country of everlasting day; what think you? Is not this Elisium? I do not understand you, answered I. But you will presently, says he, when I shall shew you, that it is now lighter abroad, than when we came in. Soon after this, some of the servants opened the door that went into the next room, and the door of that room, which opened into the air, stood open, from whence

B 5

a light

a light of fire shone into the outer room, and so farther into ours: What are they burning there, said I to my patron? You will see presently, says he; adding, I hope you will not be surprized; and then he led me to the outer door.

But who can express the thoughts of a man's heart, coming on a sudden into a place where the whole world seemed to be on fire! The valley was on one side so exceeding bright, the eye could scarce bear to look at it; the sides of the mountains were shining like the fire itself; the flame from the top of the mountain on the other side, casting its light directly upon them, from thence the reflection into other parts looked red, and more terrible; for the first was white and clear, like the light
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of the sun; but the other being, as it were, a reflection of light mixed with some darker cavities, represented the fire of a furnace; and, in short, it might well be said, here was no darkness; but, certainly, at the first view it gives a traveller no other idea than that of being at the very entrance into eternal horror.

All this while there was no fire, that is to say, no real flame to be seen, only, that where the flame was, it shone clearly into the valley; but the volcano, or volcanos, from whence the fire issued out (for it seems there were no less than three of them, though at the distance of some miles from one another) were on the South and East sides of the valley, which was so much on that side where we were, that

we could see nothing but the light, neither on the other side, could they see any more, it seems, than just the top of the flame; not knowing any thing of the places from whence it issued out, which no mortal creature, no, not of the Chilians themselves, were ever hardy enough to go near; nor would it be possible if any should attempt it, the tops of the hills, for many leagues about them, being covered with new mountains of ashes and stones, which are daily cast out of the mouths of those volcanos, by which, they grew every day higher than they were before, and which would overwhelm not only men, but whole armies of men, if they should venture to come near them.

When first we came into the
long

long narrow way I mentioned last, I observed, that as I thought, the wind blew very hard aloft among the hills, and that it made a noise like thunder, which I thought nothing of, but as a thing usual; but now, when I came to this terrible sight, and that I heard the same thunder, and yet found the air calm and quiet, I soon understood, that it was a continued thunder, occasioned by the roaring of the fire in the bowels of the mountains.

It must be some time, as may be supposed, before a traveller, unacquainted with such things, could make them familiar to him; and though the horror and surprize might abate, after proper reflections on the nature and reason of them, yet I had a kind of astonishment upon me
for

for a great while; every different place to which I turned my eye, presented me with a new scene of horror; I was, for some time, frightened at the fire being as it were over my head, for I could see nothing of it; but that the air looked as if it were all on fire, and I could not persuade myself but it would cast down the rocks and mountains on my head; but I was laughed out of that notion by the company.

After a while, I asked them, if these volcanos did not cast out a kind of liquid fire, as I had seen an account of on the eruptions at Mount *Ætna*, which cast out, as we are told, a prodigious stream of fire, and run several leagues into the sea?

Upon my putting this question to my patron, he asked the Chilian,

lian, how long ago it was since such a stream, calling it by a name of their own, ran fire? He answered, it ran now, and if we were disposed to walk but three furlongs, we should see it.

He said little to me, but asked me, if I cared to walk a little way by this kind of light? I told him, it was a surprizing place we were in, but I supposed he would lead me into no danger.

He said, he would assure me he would lead me into no danger; that these things were very familiar to them; but that I might depend there was no hazard, and that the flames which gave all this light, were six or seven miles off, and some of them more.

We walked along the plain of the valley about half a mile, when

when another great valley opened to the right, and gave us a more dreadful prospect than any we had seen before; for at the farther end of this second valley, but at the distance of about three miles from where we stood, we saw a livid stream of fire come running down the sides of the mountain for near three quarters of a mile in length, running like melted metal into a mould, until, I supposed, as it came nearer the bottom, it cooled and separated, and so went out of itself.

Beyond this, over the summit of a prodigious mountain, we could see the tops of the clear flame of a volcano, a dreadful one no doubt, could we have seen it all; and from the mouth of which, it was supposed this stream of fire came, though

though the Chilian assured us, that the fire itself was eight leagues off, and that the liquid fire which we saw, came out of the side of the mountain, and was two leagues from the great volcano itself, running like liquid metal out of a furnace.

They told me, there was a great deal of melted gold ran down with the other inflamed earth in that stream, and that much of that metal was afterwards found there; but this I was to take upon trust.

The sight as will easily be supposed was best at a distance, and indeed I had enough of it; as for my two midshipmen, they were almost frightened out of all their resolutions of going any farther in this horrible place, and when we stopped, they came mighty seriously to me, and begged

ged for God's sake, not to venture any farther upon the faith of these Spaniards, for that they would certainly carry us all into some mischief or other, and betray us.

I bade them be easy, for I saw nothing in it all, that looked like treachery; that it was true, indeed, it was a terrible place to look on, but it seemed to be no more than what was natural and familiar there, and we should be soon out of it.

They told me very seriously, that they believed it was the mouth of hell, and that in short, they were not able to bear it, and intreated me to go back: I told them, I could not think of that; but if they could not endure it, I would give consent that they should go back
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in the morning: However, we went for the present, to the Chilian's house again, where we got a plentiful draught of Chilian wine, for my patron had taken care to have a good quantity of it with us, and in the morning my two midshipmen, who got very drunk over night, had courage enough to venture forward again; for the light of the sun put quite another face upon things, and nothing of the fire was then to be seen, only the smoke.

All our company lodged in the tents here, but myself and my patron the Spaniard, who lodged within the Chilian's house, as I have said.

This Chilian was a great man among the natives, and all the valley I spoke of, which lay round his dwelling, was called
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his own; he lived in a state of perfect tranquillity, neither enjoying nor coveting any thing but what was necessary, and wanting nothing that was so; he had gold merely for the trouble of picking it up, for it was found in all the little gullies and rills of water, which, as I have said, come down from the mountains on every side; yet I did not find, that he troubled himself to lay up any great quantity more than served to go to Villa Rica, and buy what he wanted for himself and family.

He had it seems, a wife and some daughters, but no sons; these lived in a separate house, about a furlong from that where he lived, and were kept there as a family by themselves, and if he had any sons, they would have lived with him.

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He did not offer to go with us any part of our way, as the other had done; but having entertained us with great civility, took his leave. I caused one of my midshipmen to make him a present when we came away, of a piece of black baize, enough to make him a cloak, as I did the other, and a piece of blue English serge, enough to make him a jerkin and breeches, which he accepted as a great bounty.

We set out again, though not very early in the morning, having, as I said, sat up late, and drank freely over night, and we found, that after we had been gone to sleep, it had rained very hard, and though the rain was over before we went out, yet the falling of the water from the hills, made such a confused noise,
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and was echoed so backward and forward from all sides, that it was like a strange mixture of distant thunder, and though we knew the causes, yet it could not but be surprizing to us for a while.

However we set forward, the way under foot being pretty good; and first we went up the steps again, by which we had come down (our last host waiting on us thither) and there I gave him back his gun, for he would not take it before.

In this valley, which was the pleasantest by day, and the most dismal by night, that ever I saw, I observed abundance of goats, as well tame in the inclosures, as wild upon the rocks; and we found afterwards, that the last were perfectly wild, and to be had, like those at Juan Fernandes,

des, by any one who could catch them; my patron sent off two of his men, just as a huntsman casts off his hounds, to go and catch goats, and they brought us in three, which they shot in less than half an hour, and these we carried with us for our evening supply, for we made no dinner this day, having fed heartily in the morning about nine, and had chocolate two hours before that.

We travelled now along the narrow, winding passage, which I mentioned before, for about four hours, until I found, that though we had ascended but gently, yet, that, as we had done so for almost twenty miles together, we were got up to a frightful height, and I began to expect some very difficult descent on the other side; but we were
made

made easy about two o'clock, when the way not only declined again to the East, but grew wider, though with frequent turnings and winding about, so that we could seldom see above half a mile before us: We went on thus pretty much on a level, now rising, now falling; but still I found that we were a very great height from our first entrance, and as to the running of the water, I found that it flowed neither East nor West, but ran all down the little turnings that we frequently met with on the North side of our way, which, my patron told me, fell all into the great valley where we saw the fire, and so passed off by a general channel North West until it found its way out into

to the open country of Chili, and so to the South-Seas.

We were now come to another night's lodging, which we were obliged to take up with on the green grafs, as we did the first night; but by the help of our proveditor-general, my patron, we fared very well, our goats-flesh being reduced into so many sorts of venison, that none of us could distinguish it from the best venison we ever tasted.

Here we slept without any of the frightful things we saw the night before, except, that we might see the light of the fire in the air, at a great distance, like a great city in flames, but that gave us no disturbance at all.

In the morning our two hunters shot a deer, or rather a young
C fawn,

fawn, before we were awake, and this was the first we met with in this part of our travel, and thus we were provided for dinner even before breakfast-time; as for our breakfast, it was always a Spanish one, that is to say, about a pint of chocolate.

We set out very merrily in the morning, and we that were Englishmen, could not refrain smiling at one another, to think how we passed through a country where the gold lay in every ditch, as we might call it, and never troubled ourselves so much as to stoop to take it up; so certain is it, that it is easy to be placed in a station of life, where that very gold (the heaping up of which, is elsewhere made the main business of man's living in the world) would be of no value, and not worth taking off from
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the ground; nay, not of signification enough to make a present of, for that was the case here.

Two or three yards of Colchester baize, a coarse rug-like manufacture, worth in London about fifteen pence half-penny per yard, was here a present for a man of quality, when for a handful of gold dust, the same person would scarce say, thank you; or perhaps, would think himself not kindly treated to have it offered him.

We travelled this day pretty smartly, having rested at noon about two hours as before, and, by my calculation, went about twenty-two English miles in all; about five o'clock in the afternoon, we came into a broad, plain, open place, where, though it was not properly a valley, yet

we found it lay very level for a good way together. Our way lying almost East South East. After we had marched so about two miles, I found the way go evidently down hill, and in half a mile more, to our singular satisfaction, we found the water from the mountains ran plainly Eastward, and consequently, to the North Sea.

We saw at a distance, several huts or houses of the mountain-
eer inhabitants, but went near none of them, but kept on our way, going down two or three pretty steep places, not at all dangerous, though something difficult.

We encamped again the next night, as before, and still our good caterer had plenty of food for us: But I observed, that the next morning, when we set forward,

ward, our tents were left standing, the baggage mules tied together to graze, and our company lessened by all my patron's servants, which, when I enquired about, he told me, he hoped we should have good quarters quickly without them.

I did not understand him for the present, but it unriddled itself soon after; for though we travelled four days more in that narrow way, yet he always found us lodging at the cottages of the mountaineers.

The sixth day we went all day up hill; at last, on a sudden, the way turned short East, and opened into a vast wide country, boundless to the eye every way, and delivered us intirely from the mountains of the Andes, in which we had wandered so long.

Any one may guess what an agreeable surprize this was to us, to whom it was the main end of our travels. We made no question that this was the open country extended to the North, or Atlantick Ocean, but how far it was thither, or what inhabitants it was possessed by, what travelling, what provisions to be found by the way, what rivers to pass, and whether any navigable or not; this our patron himself could not tell us one word of; owning frankly to us, that he had never been one step farther than the place where we then stood; and that he had been there only once to satisfy his curiosity, as I did now.

I told him, that if I had lived where he did, and had servants and provisions at command, as he had, it would have been impossible

sible for me to have restrained my curiosity so far, as not to have searched through that whole country to the Sea-side long ago : I also told him, it seemed to be a pleasant and fruitful soil, and no doubt, was capable of cultivations and improvements ; and if it had been only to have possessed such a country in his Catholick Majesty's name, it must have been worth while to undertake the discovery for the honour of Spain ; and that there could be no room to question, but his Catholick Majesty would have honoured the man who should have undertaken such a thing, with some particular mark of his favour, which might be of consequence to him and his family.

He answered me, as to that, the Spaniards seemed already to have more dominions in America,

than they could keep, and much more than they were able to reap the benefit of, and still more infinitely than they could improve, and especially in those parts called South America.

And he moreover told me, that it was next to a miracle they could keep possession of the place we were in ; and were not the natives so utterly destitute of support from any other part of the world, as not to be able to have either arms or ammunition put into their hands, it would be impossible ; since I might easily see, they were men that wanted not strength of body, or courage ; and it was evident, they did not want numbers, seeing they were already ten thousand natives to one Spaniard, taking the whole country from one end to the other.

Thus, you see, seignior, added he, how far we are from improvement

provement in that part of the country which we possess, and many more which, you may be sure, are among these vast mountains, and which we never discovered, seeing all these valleys and passages among the mountains, where gold is to be had in such quantities, and with so much ease, that every poor Chilian gathers it up with his hands, and may have as much as he pleases, are all left open, naked, and unregarded, in the possession of the wild mountaineers, who are heathens and savages; and the Spaniards you see, are so few, and those few so indolent, so slothful, and so satisfied with the gold they get of the Chilians for things of small value in trade, that all this vast treasure lies unregarded by them. Nay, continued he, is it not very strange to observe, that when

for our diversion we come into the hills, and among these places where you see the gold is so easily found, we come, as we call it, a hunting, and divert ourselves more with shooting wild parrots, or a fawn or two, for which also we ride, and run, and make our servants weary themselves more than they would in searching for the gold among the gullies and holes that the water makes in the rocks, and more than would suffice to find fifty, nay, one hundred times the value in gold? To what purpose then should we seek the possession of more countries, who are already possessed of more land than we can improve, and of more wealth than we know what to do with? Perceiving me very attentive, he went on thus.

Were

Were these mountains valued in Europe, according to the riches to be found in them, the viceroy would obtain orders from the king, to have strong forts erected at the entrance in, and at the coming out of them, as well on the side of Chili, as here; and strong garrisons maintained in them, to prevent foreign nations landing, either on our side in Chili, or on this side in the North seas, and taking the possession from us; he would then order thirty thousand slaves, negros, or Chilians, to be constantly employed, not only in picking up what gold might be found in the channels of the water, which might easily be formed into proper receivers, so as that if any gold washed from the rocks, it should soon be found, and be

so secured, as that none of it would escape; also others, with miners and engineers, might search into the very rocks themselves, and would, no doubt, find out such mines of gold, or other secret stores of it in those mountains, as would be sufficient to enrich the world.

While we omit such things as these, Seignior, says he, what signifies Spain making new acquisitions, or the people of Spain seeking new countries? This vast track of land you see here, and some hundreds of miles every way, which your eye cannot reach to, is a fruitful, pleasant, and agreeable part of the creation; but perfectly uncultivated, and most of it uninhabited; and any nation in Europe, that thinks fit to settle in it, are free to do so,

so, for any thing we are able to do to prevent them.

But, Seignior, said I, does not his Catholic Majesty claim a title to the possession of it? And have the Spaniards no governor over it? Nor any ports or towns, settlements or colonies in it, as is the case here in Chili? Seignior, replied he, the king of Spain is lord of all America; as well that which he possesses, as that which he possesses not; that right being given him by the Pope, in the right of his being a christian prince, making new discoveries for propagating the christian faith among infidels: How far that may pass for a title among the European powers, I know not. I have heard, that it has always passed for a maxim in Europe, that no country, which is not planted by any prince or people,

people, can be said to belong to them; and, indeed I cannot say, but it seems to be rational, that no prince should pretend to any title to a country where he does not think fit to plant, and to keep possession; for if he leaves the country unpossessed, he leaves it free for any other nation to come and possess; and this is the reason why the former kings of Spain did not dispute that right of the French, to their colonies of the Mississippi and Canada; or the right of the English to the Caribee islands, or to their colonies of Virginia and New England.

In like manner from the Buenos Ayres, in the Rio de la Plata, which lies that way, (pointing North East) to the Fretum Magellanicum, which lies that way (pointing South East)

East) which comprehends a vast number of leagues, is called by us, *Coasta Deserta*, being unpossessed by Spain, and disregarded of all our nation: Neither is there one Spaniard in it; nevertheless, you see how fruitful, how pleasant, and how agreeable a climate it is; how apt for planting and peopling it seems to be; and, above all, what a place of wealth here would be behind them, sufficient and more than enough, both for them and us; for we should have no reason to offer them any disturbance; neither should we be in any condition to do it, the passages of the mountains being but few and difficult, as you have seen, and our numbers not sufficient to do any thing more than to block them up, to keep such people from breaking in
upon

upon our settlements on the coast of the South seas.

I asked him, if these notions of his were common among those of his country, who were settled in Chili and Peru? Or, whether they were his own private opinions only? I told him, I believed, the latter, because I found he acted in all his affairs upon generous principles, and was for propagating the good of mankind; but that I questioned whether their governor of Old Spain, or the sub-governor, and viceroy of New Spain, acted upon those notions; and since he had mentioned the Buenos Ayres, and the Rio de la Plata, I should take that as an example, seeing the Spaniards would never suffer any nation to set foot in that great river, where so many countries might have been

been discovered, and colonies planted; though at the same time, they had not possessed, or fully discovered those places themselves.

He answered me, smiling; Seignior, said he, you have given the reason for this yourself in that very part which you think is a reason against it. We have a colony at Buenos Ayres, and at the city of Ascension, higher up in the Rio de la Plata; and we are not willing to let any other nation settle there, because we would not let them see how weak we are, and what a vast extent of land we possess there with a few men: And this for two reasons.

First, we are possessed of the country, and daily increasing there, and may, in time, extend ourselves farther. The great

great rivers Parana, and Paraguay, being yet left for us to plant in, and we are not willing to put ourselves out of a capacity of planting farther, and therefore we keep the possession.

Secondly, we have a communication from thence with Peru. The great river la Plata rises at the city of that name, and out of the mountain Potosi in Peru, and a great trade is carried on by that river; and it would be dangerous to let foreigners into the secret of that trade, which they might entirely cut off; especially when they should find how small a number of Spaniards are planted there to preserve it, seeing there are not six hundred Spaniards in all that vast country, which, by the course of that river, is more than one thousand

thousand six hundred miles in length.

I confess, said I, these are just grounds for your keeping the possession of that river. They are so, said he, and the more, because of so powerful a colony as the Portuguese have in the Brasils, which bound immediately upon it, and who are always incroaching upon it from the land side, and would gladly have a passage up the Rio Parana to the back of their colony.

But here, Seignior, says he, the case differs; for we neither take nor keep possession here; neither have we one Spaniard, as I said, in the whole country now before you; and therefore we call this country *Coasta Deserta*; not that it is a desert, as that name is generally taken to signify

signify a barren, sandy, dry country; on the contrary, the infinite, prodigious encrease of the European black cattle, which were brought by the Spaniards to the Buenos Ayres, and suffered to run loose, is a sufficient testimony of the fruitfulness and richness of the soil, their number being such, that they kill above twenty thousand of them in a year, for nothing but the hides, which they carry away to Spain, leaving the flesh, though fat and wholesome, to perish on the ground, or be devoured by birds of prey.

And the number is so great, notwithstanding all they destroy, that they are found to wander sometimes in droves of many thousands together, over all the vast country between the Rio de la Plata, the city of Ascension, and

and the Frontier of Peru, and even down into this country which you see before us, and up to the very foot of these mountains.

Well, said I, and is it not a great pity, that all this part of the country, and in such a climate as this is, should lie uncultivated, or uninhabited rather? For I understand there are not any great numbers of people to be found among them.

It is true, added he, there are some notions prevailing, of people being spread about in this country; but as the terror of our people, the Spaniards, drove them, at first, from the sea coast towards these mountains, so the greatest part of them continue on this side still; for towards the coast it is very rare that they find any people.

I would

I would have enquired of him about rivers, and navigable streams, which might be in this country; but he told me frankly, that he could give me no account of those; only thus, that if any of the rivers went away towards the North, they certainly run all into the great Rio de la Plata; but that if they went East, or Southerly, they must go directly to the coast, which was ordinarily called, as he said, La Coasta Deserta, or, as by some, The Coast of Palagonia; that as to the magnitude of those rivers, he could say little, but it was reasonable to suppose, there must be some very considerable rivers, and whose streams must needs be capable of navigation, seeing abundance of water must continually flow from the mountains where we
then

then were; and its being, at least, four hundred miles from the sea side, those small streams must necessarily join together, and form large rivers in the plain country.

I had enough in this discourse, fully to satisfy all my curiosity, and sufficiently to heighten my desire of making the farther discoveries which I had in my thoughts.

We pitched our little camp here, and set down to our repast; for I found, that though we were to go back to lodge, yet my patron had taken care we should be furnished sufficiently for dinner, and have a good house to eat it in; that is to say, a tent, as before.

The place where we stood, tho' we had come down hill for a great way, yet seemed very high
from

from the ordinary surface of the country, and gave us, therefore, an exceeding fine prospect of it, the country declining gradually for near ten miles; and we thought, as well as the distance of the place would allow us, we saw a great river, but, as I learned afterwards, it was rather a great lake, than a river, which was supplied by the smaller rivers, or rivulets, from the mountains, which met there as in a great receptacle of waters, and out of this lake, they all issued again in one river; of which I shall have occasion to give a farther account hereafter.

While we were at dinner, I ordered my midshipmen to take their observations of every distant object, and to look at every thing with their glasses; which
they

they did, and told me of this lake; but my patron could give no account of it, having never been, as he said before, one step farther that way, than where we were.

However, my men shewed me plainly, that it was a great lake, and that there went a large river from it towards the East South East, and this was enough for me, for that way lay all the schemes I had laid.

I took this opportunity to ask my midshipmen, first, if they had taken such observations in their passage of the mountains, as that they were sure they could find their way through to this place again without guides? And they assured me they could.

Then I put it to them, whether they thought it might not be practicable to travel over that

vast level country to the North seas? And to make a sufficient discovery of the country, so as that hereafter Englishmen coming to the coast on the side of those seas, might penetrate to these golden mountains, and reap the benefit of the treasure without going a prodigious length about Cape Horn, and the Terra del Fuego, which was always attended with innumerable dangers; and without breaking through the kingdom of Chili, and the Spaniards settlements, which, perhaps, we might soon be at peace with, and so be shut out that way by our own consents?

One of my men began to speak of the difficulties of such an attempt; the want of provisions, and other dangers which we should be exposed to on the way;

way; but the other, a bold, brisk fellow, told me, he made no question, but it might be easily done, and especially because all the rivers they should meet with would, of course, run along with us, so that we should be sure to have the tide with us, as he called it; and at last he added, that he would be content to be one of those men who should undertake it, provided he should be assured, that the ships, in the mean time, would not go away, and pretend that they could not be found.

I told him, we would talk farther about it; that I had such a thought in my head, and a strong inclination to undertake it myself; but that I could not answer it to leave the ships,

which depended so much upon my care of the voyage.

After some talk of the reasonableness of such an undertaking, and the methods of performing it, my second midshipman began to come into it, and to think it was practicable enough, and added, that though he used some cautions in his first hearing proposals, yet, if he undertook that enterprize, I should find, that he would do as much of his duty in it, as another man; and so he did at last, as will appear in its place.

We were, by this time, preparing to be satisfied with our journey, and my patron coming to me, and asking, if I was for returning? I told him, I could not say how many days it would be before I should say, I had enough of that prospect; but
that

that I would return when he pleased; only I had one question to ask him, which was, whether the mountains were as full of gold on this side, as they were on the side of Chili?

As to that, Seignior, says he, the best way to be certain, is to make a trial, that you may be sure we do not speak without proof; so he called his gentleman, and another servant that was with him, and desired me to call my two midshipmen, and speaking something to his own servants first, in the language of the country, as I supposed, he turned to me, and said, come, let us sit down and rest ourselves, while they go together, and see what they can do.

Accordingly they went away, and, as my men told me after-

wards, they searched in the small streams of water, which they found running, and in some larger gullies or channels, where they found little or no water running; but where, upon hasty rains, great shoots of water had been used to run, and where water stood still in the holes and falls, as I have described once before on the like occasion.

They had not been gone above an hour, when I plainly heard my two Englishmen hollow, which I could easily distinguish from the voices of any other nation, and immediately I ran out of the tent, Captain Merlotte followed, and then I saw one of my midshipmen running towards us, so we went to meet him, and what with hollowing, and running, he could hardly speak; but recovering his breath, said, he

he came to desire me to come to them, if I would behold a fight which I never saw in my life.

I was eager enough to go, so I went with him, and left Captain Merlotte to go back to the tent to my patron the Spaniard, and the Spanish doctor, who had not so much share in the curiosity: He did so, and they followed soon after.

When we came to the place, we saw such a wonder as, indeed, I never saw before; for there they were sitting down round a little puddle, or hole, as I might call it, of water, where, in the time of rain, the water running hastily from a piece of the rock, about two foot higher than the rest, had made a pit under it with the fall like the tail of a mill, only much less.

D 4

Here

Here they took up the sand, or gravel, with their hands, and every handful brought up with it such a quantity of gold, as was surprizing; for there they sat picking it out just as the boys in London, who go with a broom and a hat, pick out old iron, nails, and pins from the channels, and it lay as thick.

I stood and looked at them a while, and, it must be confessed, it was a pleasant sight enough; but reflecting immediately, that there was no end of this, and that we were only upon the enquiry, Come away, said I, laughing, to my men, and do not stand picking up of trash there all day: Do you know how far we have to our lodgings?

I can make no guess what quantity might have been found here in places, which had, for
hundreds

hundreds of years, washed gold from the hills, and, perhaps, never had a man come to pick any of it up before; but I was soon satisfied that here was enough, even to make all the world say they had enough; and so I called off my people, and came away.

It seems, the quantity of gold which is thus washed down, is not small, since my men, enquiring afterwards among the Chilians, heard them talk of the great lake of water which I mentioned just now that we saw at a distance, which they call the Golden Lake, and where was, as they said, prodigious quantities of it; not that our men supposed any gold was there in mines, or in the ordinary soil, but that the waters from the hills, running with very rapid currents at certain times in the

rainy seasons, and after the melting of the snows, had carried the gold so far as that lake; and as it has been so, perhaps, from the days of the general deluge, no people ever applying themselves to gather the least grain of it up again, it might well be increased to such a quantity, as might intitle that water to the name of the Golden Lake, and all the little streams and sluices of water that run into it, deserved the name of Golden Rivers, as much as that of the Golden Lake.

But my present business was to know, only if the gold was here, but not to trouble myself to pick it up: My views lay another way, and my end was fully answered; so I came back to my patron, and brought all my men with me.

You

You live in a golden country, Seignior, says I, my men are stark mad to see so much gold, and nobody to take it.

Should the world know what treasure you have here, I would not answer for it, that they should not flock hither in armies, and drive you all away. They need not do that, Seignior, says he, for here is enough for them, and for us too.

We now packed up, and began our return, but it was not without regret that I turned my back upon this pleasant country, the most agreeable place, of its kind, that ever I was at in all my life, or ever shall be in again: A country rich, pleasant, fruitful, wholesome, and capable of every thing for the life of man, that the heart could entertain a wish for.

D. 6.

But

But my present work was to return; so we mounted our mules, and had, in the mean time, the pleasure of contemplating what we had seen, and applying ourselves, to such farther measures as we had concerted among us. In about four hours we returned to our camp, as I called it, and, by the way, we found, to our no little pain, that though we had come down hill easily, and insensibly to the opening, for some miles, yet we had a hard pull up hill to go back again.

However, we reached to our tents in good time, and made our first encampment with pleasure enough, for we were very weary with the fatigue of a hard day's journey.

The next day we reached our good Chilian's mansion house, or
palace,

palace, for such it might be called, considering the place, and considering the entertainment; for now he had some time to provide for us, knowing we would come back again.

He met us with three mules, and two servants, about a mile before we came to the descent going down to his house, of which I took notice before, and this he did to guide us a way round to his house, without going down those uneasy steps; so we came on our mules to his door, that is to say, on *his* mules, for he would have my patron the Spaniard, to whom, I observed, he shewed an extraordinary respect, and Captain Merlotte, and myself, mount his fresh mules to carry us to his house.

When

When we came thither, I observed he wanted the assistance of my patron's servants for his cookery; for though he had provided abundance of food, he owned, he knew not how to prepare it to our liking; so they assisted him, and one of my midshipmen pretending to cook too, made them roast a piece of venison, and a piece of a kid, or young goat, admirable well, and putting no garlick or onions into the sauce, but their own juices, with a little wine, it pleased the Spaniard so well, that my man passed for an extraordinary cook, and had the favour asked of him, to dress some more after the same manner, when we came back to the Spaniard's house.

We had here several sorts of wild fowl, which the Chilian had shot while we were gone; but

but I knew none of them by any of the kinds we have in England, except some teal. However, they were very good.

The day was agreeable and pleasant, but the night dreadful, as before, being all fire and flame again, and though we understood both what it was, and where, yet I could not make it familiar to me, for my life. The Chilian persuaded us to stay all the next day, and did his endeavour to divert us as much as possible: My two midshipmen went out with him a hunting, as he called it, that is, a shooting; but, though he was a man of fifty years of age, he would have killed ten of them at his sport, running up the hills, and leaping from rock to rock like a boy of seventeen. At his gun he was so sure a marksman, that

that he seldom missed any thing he shot at, whether running, flying, or sitting.

They brought home with them several fowls, two fawns, and a full grown deer, and we had nothing but boiling, stewing, and broiling, all that evening: In the afternoon, we walked out to view the hills, and to see the stupendous precipices which surrounded us. As for looking for gold, we saw the places where there was enough to be had; but that was become now so familiar to us, that we troubled not ourselves about it, as a business not worth our while; but the two midshipmen, I think, got about the quantity of five or six ounces a-piece while we were chatting, or reposing in the Chilian's house.

Here

Here it was, that I entered into a confidence with my patron the Spaniard, concerning my grand design. I told him, in the first place, that my view of the open country beyond these hills, and the particular account he had given me of it also, had raised a curiosity in me, that I could scarce withstand; and that I had thereupon formed a design, which, if he would further me with his assistance, I had a very great mind to put in practice, and that, though I was to hazard perishing in the attempt.

He told me very readily, nothing should be wanting on his part to give me any assistance he could, either by himself, or any of his servants; but, smiling, and with abundance of good humour, Seignior, says he, I believe

lieve I guess at the design you speak of; you are fired now with a desire to traverse this great country to the Coasta Deferta, and the North Seas; that is a very great undertaking, and you will be well advised before you undertake it.

True, Seignior, said I, you have guessed my design, and were it not, that I have two ships under my care, and some cargo of value on board, I would bring my whole ship's company on shore, and make the adventure, and, perhaps, we might be strong enough to defend ourselves against whatever might happen by the way.

As to that, Seignior, says he, you would be in no danger that would require so many men; for you will find but few inhabitants any where, and those not
in

in numbers sufficient to give you any trouble; fifty men would be as many as you would either want or desire, and perhaps, as you would find provisions for; and, for fifty men, we might be able to carry provisions with us to keep them from distress; but if you will accept of my advice, as well as assistance, Seignior, says he, choose a faithful strong fellow out of your ship, on whom you can depend, and give him fifty men with him, or thereabouts, and such instructions as you may find needful, as to the place on the coast where you would have them fix their stay, and let them take the first hazards of the adventure; and as you are going round by sea, you will, if success follows, meet them on the shore; and if the account they give of their journey encourages you, you may
come

come afterwards yourself up to these very mountains, and take a farther view: In which case, he added, with a solemn protestation, cost me what it will, I will come and meet you one hundred miles beyond the hills, with supplies of provisions, and mules for your assistance.

This was such wholesome and friendly advice, and he offered it so sincerely, that though it was very little differing from my own design, yet I would not be seen so to lessen his prudence in the measures of his friendship, in advising it, as to say, that I had resolved to do so. But making all possible acknowledgment to him for his kind offers, I told him, I would take his advice, and act just according to the measures he had prescribed; and at the same time, I assured him,
that

that if I found a convenient port to settle and fortify in, I would not fail to come again from France (for we passed always as acting from France, whatever nation we were of) to relieve and supply them; and that if ever I returned safe, I would not fail to correspond with him, by the passages of the mountains, and make a better acknowledgement for his kindness, than I had been able to do yet.

He was going to break off the discourse, upon the occasion of the Chilian's returning, who was just come in from his hunting, telling me, we would talk farther of it by the way: But I told him, I could not quite dismiss the subject; because I must bespeak him to make some mention of it to the Chilian, that he

he might on his account, be an assistant to our men, as we saw he was capable of being, in their passing by those difficult ways, and for their supply of provisions, &c. Trouble not yourself with that, Seignior, said he, for when your men come, the care shall be mine: I will come myself as far as this wealthy Chilian's, and procure them all the assistance this place can afford them, and do any thing that offers, to forward them in the undertaking.

This was so generous, and so extraordinary, that I had nothing to say more, but to please myself with the apparent success of my attempt, and acknowledge the happiness of having an opportunity to oblige so generous spirited and grateful a person.

I would, however, have made
some

some farther acknowledgment to our Chilian benefactor; but I had nothing left, except a couple of hats, and three pair of English stockings, one pair silk and the other two worsted, and those I gave him, and made him a great many acknowledgements for the favours he had shewn us, and the next morning came away.

We made little stay any where else in our return; but making much such stages back as we did forward, we came the fourteenth day to our patron's house, having made the passage through in something less than sixteen days, and the like back in fifteen days, including our stay at the Chilian's one day.

The length of the way, according to the best of my calculations, I reckoned to be about
one

one hundred and seventy-five English miles, taking it with all its windings and turnings, which were not a few; but which had this conveniency with them, that they gave a more easy and agreeable passage, and made the English proverb abundantly good, namely, that the farthest way about, is the nearest way home.

The civilities I received after this from my generous Spaniard, were agreeable to the rest of his usage of me; but we, that had so great a charge upon us at the sea-side, could not spare long time in those ceremonies, any more than I do now for relating them.

It is enough to mention, that he would not be excused at parting from going back with us quite to the ships, and when I would have excused it, he said,
nay,

nay, Seignior, give me leave to go and fetch my hostages. In short, there was no resisting him, so we went all together, after staying two days more at his house, and came all safe to our ships, having been gone forty-six days from them.

We found the ship in very good condition, all safe on board and well, except that the men seemed to have contracted something of the scurvy; which our Spanish doctor, however, soon recovered them from.

Here we found the two Spanish youths, our patron's hostages, very well also, and very well pleased with their entertainment: one of our lieutenants had been teaching them navigation, and something of the mathematics, and they had made very good improvement in those studies, considering the time they had

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been there ; and the Spaniard, their father, was so pleased with it, that having not gold enough to offer the lieutenant, as an acknowledgement for his teaching them, he gave him a very good ring from his finger, having a fine large emerald in it of some value, and made him a long Spanish compliment, for having nothing of greater consequence to offer him.

We now made preparations for sailing, and our men, in my absence, had laid in a very considerable supply of provisions, particularly excellent pork, and tolerable good beef, with a great number of goats and hogs alive, as many as we could stow.

But I had now my principal undertaking to manage, I mean that of sending out my little army for discovery, and having communicated my design to the super

per cargo, and the person whom I entrusted with him in the command of the ships, they unanimously approved of the scheme. My next business was, to resolve upon whom to confer the command of the expedition; and this, by general consent, fell upon the lieutenant of the Madagascar ship, who had taught the young Spaniards navigation; and this the rather, because he was naturally a bold, enterprising man, and also an excellent geographer: Indeed, he was a general artist, and a man faithful and vigilant in whatever he undertook; nor was it a little consideration with me, that he was so agreeable to the Spaniard and his sons, of whose aid we knew he would stand in so much need.

When I had communicated to him the design, and he had both

E 2 approved

approved of the undertaking itself, and accepted the command, we constituted him captain, and the two midshipmen we made lieutenants for the expedition, promising each of them five hundred pounds if they performed it: As for the captain, we came to a good agreement with him for his reward; for I engaged to give him one thousand pounds in gold as soon as we met, if the journey was performed effectually.

We then laid open the design to the men, and left it to every one's choice to go, or not to go, as they pleased; but instead of wanting men to go volunteers, we were fain to decide it by lot, among some of them, they were all so eager to undertake it.

Then I gave them articles and conditions,

conditions, which they, who ventured, should engage themselves to comply with, and particularly, that they should not mutiny, upon pain of being shot to death when we met, or upon the spot, if the captain thought it necessary; that they should not straggle from their company, nor be tempted by the view of picking up gold, to stay behind, when the company beat to march; that all the gold they found in the way, should be in common, should be put together in bulk every night, and be divided faithfully and equally at the end of the journey, allowing only five shares to each ship, to be divided as I should direct; besides which, upon condition, that every man behaved himself faithfully and quietly, and did his duty, I promised,

that besides the gold he might get by the way, I would give to all one hundred pounds each at our meeting; and if any man was sick or maimed by the way, the rest were to engage not to forsake and leave him on any account whatsoever, death only excepted; and if any man died, except by any violence from the rest, his share of the gold which was gotten, should be faithfully kept for his family, if he had any; but his reward of one hundred pounds, which was not due, because he did not live to demand it, should be divided among the rest: So that by this agreement, the undertaking was not so dear to me as I had expected; for the pay of the men amounted to no more than the sum following, viz.

To

To the lieutenant, now	
made captain	1000
To the midshipmen now	
made lieutenants, each	
500l.	1000
To fifty men, each 100l.	5000
To the surgeon 200l. and	
his servant 100l. over	
and above their 100l.	
as being part of the fifty	
men	300

£.7300

Having pitched upon the men, I landed them, and made them encamp on shore: But first of all, I made them, every one, make wills or letters of attorney, or other dispositions of their effects, to such persons as they thought fit, with an account under their hands, endorsed

on the back of the said wills, &c. intimating what chests or cases, or other things they had on board, and what was in them, and what pay was due to them; and those chests, &c. were sealed up before their faces with my seal, and writings signed by me, the contents unknown: Thus they were secure, that all they had left in the ships, and all that was due to them, should be punctually and carefully kept, and delivered as it was designed and directed by themselves; and this was greatly to their satisfaction.

As to the reward of one hundred pounds a man, and the articles about keeping together, obeying orders, gathering up gold, and the like; I did not read to them till they were all on shore, and till I was ready
to

to leave them; because if the rest of the men had heard it, I should have kept nobody with me to have sailed the ships.

There was as stout a company of bold, young, brisk fellows of them, as ever went upon any expedition, fifty-three in number, among them a surgeon, and his mate, very skilful and honest men both of them; a trumpeter and a drummer, three ship-carpenters, a cook, who was also a butcher by trade, and a barber; two shoemakers, who had been soldiers among the pirates; a smith, and a taylor of the same, so that they wanted no mechanics whatever might happen to them.

Give the fellows their due, they took but little baggage with them; but, however, what they had, I took care, with the

E 5 assistance

assistance of my patron, the Spaniard, should be as much carried for them as possible.

I provided them three large tents, made of a cotton stuff, which I bought in the country, and which we made up on board, which tents were large enough to cover them all, in case of rain or heat; but as for beds, or bedding, they had only seven hammocks, in case any man was sick; for the rest, they were to shift as well as they could; the season was hot, and the climate good; their way lay in the latitude of forty to fifty, and they set out in the latter end of the month of October, which, on that side of the line, is the same as our April; so that the covering was more to keep them from the heat than the cold.

It

It was needful, in order to their defence, to furnish them with arms and ammunition; so I gave to every man a musquet or fuzee, a pistol and a sword, with cartouches, and a good stock of ammunition, powder and shot, with three small barrels of fine powder for store, and lead in proportion; and these things were, indeed, the heaviest part of their baggage, excepting the carpenters tools, and the surgeon's box of medicines.

As for the carrying all these things, they might easily furnish themselves with mules or horses for carriage, while they had money to pay for them, and you may judge how that could be wanting, by what has been said of the country.

We gave them, however, a good large pack of European goods, to make agreeable presents where they received favours; such as black baize, pieces of say, serge, calamanco, drugget, hats and stockings; not forgetting another pack of hatchets, knives, scissors, beads, toys, and such things, to please the natives of the plain country, if they should meet with any.

They desired a few hand-granadoes, and we gave them about a dozen, but as they were heavy, it would have been very troublesome to have carried more.

The Spaniard stayed till all this was done, and till the men were ready to march, and then told us privately, that it would not be proper for him to march along with them, or to appear
openly,

openly, to countenance the enterprize; that my two lieutenants knew the way perfectly well; and that he would go before to his own house, and they should hear of him by the way.

All the mules and horses which he had lent us, to bring us back, he left with them to carry their baggage, and our new captain had bought six more privately in the country.

The last instructions I gave to our men, were, that they should make the best of their way over the country beyond the mountains; that they should take the exact distances of places, and keep a journal of their march, set up crosses and marks at all proper stations; and that they should steer their course, as near as they could, between the latitude

itude of forty, where they would enter the country, and the latitude of forty-five South; so that they would go an East South East course most of the way, and that wherever they made the shore, they should seek for a creek or port where the ships might come to an anchor, and look out night and day for the ships; the signals also were agreed on, and they had two dozen of rockets to throw up, if they discovered us at sea; they had all necessary instruments for observation also, and perspective glasses, pocket compasses, &c. and thus they set out, October 24th, 1715.

We stayed five days after they began their march, by agreement, that if any opposition should be offered them in the country, or any umbrage taken at their design,

sign, so that it could not be executed, we might have notice. But as the Spaniards in the country, who are the most supinely negligent people in the world, had not the least shadow of intelligence, and took them only to be French seamen, belonging to the two French ships (such we past for) who had lain there so long, they knew nothing when they went away, much less whither; but, no question, they believed, that they were all gone on board again.

We stayed three days longer than we appointed, and hearing nothing amiss from them, we were satisfied that all was right with them; so we put to sea, standing off to the West, till we were out of sight of the shore, and then we stood away due South, with a fresh gale at North West

West by West, and fair weather, though the wind chopped about soon after, and we had calms and hot weather that did us no good, but made our men sick and lazy.

The supposed journey of our travellers, their march, and the adventures they should meet with by the way, were, indeed, sufficient diversion; and employed us all with discourse, as well in the great cabin and round house, as afore the mast, and wagers were very rife among us, who should come first to the shore of Patagonia, for so we called it.

As for the place, neither they nor we could make any guess at what part of the country they should make the sea; but as for us, we resolved to make the port St. Julian our first place to put in at, which is
in

in the latitude of fifty degrees five minutes, and that then, as wind and weather would permit, we would keep the coast as near as we could, till we came to Punta de St. Helena, where we would ride for some time, and, if possible, till we heard of them.

We had but a cross voyage to the mouth of the straits of Magellan, having contrary winds, as I have said, and sometimes bad weather; so that it was the thirteenth of December when we made an observation, and found ourselves in the latitude of fifty-two degrees thirty minutes, which is just the height of Cape Victoria, at the mouth of the passage.

Some of our officers were very much for passing the straits, and not going about by Cape Horn; but the

the uncertainty of the winds in the passage, the danger of the currents, &c. made it by no means adviseable, so we resolv-
ed to keep good sea room.

The twenty-fifth of December, we found ourselves in the latitude of sixty-two degrees thirty minutes, and being Christmas day, I feasted the men, and drank the health of our travellers; our course was South East by South, the wind South West, then we changed our course and went East for eight days, and having changed our course, stood away, without observation, East North East, and in two days more, made the land, on the East of the strait de la Mare, so that we were obliged to stand away East South East to take more sea-room, when the wind veering to the South by East, a
fresh

fresh gale, we stood boldly away due North, and running large, soon found that we were entered into the North Sea, on twelfth day; for joy of which, and to celebrate the day, I gave every mess a piece of English beef, and a piece of Chilian pork, and made a great bowl of punch afore the mast, as well as in the great cabin, which made our men very chearful, and instead of a twelfth cake, I gave the cook order to make every mess a good plumb pudding, which pleased them all as well.

But while we were at our liquor, and merry, the wind came about to the North East, and blew very hard, threatening us with a storm, and as the shore lay on our leeward quarter, we were not without apprehensions of being driven on some dangerous places,

places, where we could have no shelter; I immediately therefore, altered my course, and ran away East all night, to have as much sea-room as possible.

The next day the wind abated, and haling away to the East, we stood Northward again, and then North West in three days more, and we made land, which appeared to be the head island of port St. Julian, on the North side of the port where we ran in, and about an hour before sunset, came to an anchor in eleven fathom good holding ground, latitude forty-nine degrees eighteen minutes.

We wanted fresh water, otherwise we would not have made any stay here, for we knew we were a little too far to the South; however, we were obliged to fill fresh water here for three days together,

together, the watering place being a good way up the river, and the swell of the sea running very high.

During this interval, Captain Merlotte and I went on shore with about thirty men, and marched up the country near twenty miles, getting up to the top of the hills, where we made fires, and at the farthest hill we encamped all night, and threw up five rockets, which was our signal; but we saw nothing to answer it, nor any sign either of English people or natives, in all the country.

We saw a noble champaign country, the plains all smooth and covered with grass like Salisbury Plain, very little wood to be seen any where, insomuch, that we could not get any thing but grass to make a smoke with, which

which was another of our signals.

We shot some fowls here, and five or six hares; the hares are as large as an English fox, and burrow in the earth like a rabbit: The fowls we shot, were duck and mallard, teal and widgeon, the same as in England in shape and size, only the colour generally grey, with white in the breast, and green heads, the flesh the same as ours, and very good.

We saw wild geese and wild swans, but shot none; we saw also guinacoes or Peruvian sheep, as big as small mules, but could not get at them; for as soon as we stepped toward them, they would call to one another, to give notice of us, and then troop all together and be gone.

This is an excellent country
for

for feeding and breeding of sheep and horses, the grafs being short, but very sweet and good on the plains, and very long and rich near the fresh rivers, and were it cultivated and stocked with cattle, would without doubt, produce excellent kinds of all sorts of cattle; nor could it fail producing excellent corn, as well wheat as barley and oats, and as for peas, they grow wild all over the country, and nourish an infinite number of birds resembling pigeons, which fly in flights so great, that they seem in the air like clouds at a great distance.

As for the soil, that of the hills is gravel and some stony, but that of the plains is a light black mould, and in some places a rich loam, and some marle; all of which are tokens of fruitfulness,

fulness, such as indeed never fail.

The fourteenth of January (the weather being hot, and days long, for this was their July) we weighed and stood Northerly along the shore, the coast running from port St. Julian, North North East, until we arrived at the famous islands called Penguin Islands; and here we came to an anchor again, in the same round bay which Sir John Narborough called Port Desire, it being the seventeenth of January.

Here we found a post or cross, erected by Sir John Narborough, with a plate of copper nailed to it, and an inscription, signifying, That he had taken possession of that country in the name of Charles II.

Our men raised a shout for joy,

joy that they were in their own king's dominions, or, as they said, in their own country; and, indeed, excepting that it was not inhabited by Englishmen, and cultivated, planted, and inclosed, after the English manner, I never saw a country so much like England.

Here we victualled our ships with a new kind of food; for we loaded ourselves with seals, of which here are an infinite number, and which we salted and ate, and our men liked them wonderfully for a while; but they soon began to grow weary of them: Also the penguins are a very wholesome diet, and very pleasant, especially when a little salted; and as for salt, we could have loaded our ships with it, being very good and white, made by the sun, and found in stand-

ing ponds of salt water, near the shore.

The penguins are so easily killed, and are found in such vast multitudes on that island, (which for that reason, is so called) that our men loaded the long-boat with them twice in one day, and we reckoned there were no less than seven thousand in the boat each time.

Here we travelled up into the country in search of our men, and made our signals, but had no answer to them, nor heard any intelligence of them. We saw some people here at a distance scattering about; but they were but few, nor would they be brought by any means to converse with us, or come near us.

We spread ourselves over the country far and wide; and here we shot hares and wild-fowl again

gain in abundance, the country being much the same as before, but something more bushy, and here and there a few trees, but they were a great way off. There is a large river which empties itself into this bay.

Finding no news here of our men, I ordered the Madagascar ship to weigh and stand farther North, keeping as near the shore as he might with safety, and causing his men to look out for the signals, which if they discovered, they should give us notice by firing three guns.

They sailed the height of Cape Blanco, where the land falling back, makes a deep bay, and the sea receives into it a great river at several mouths, some of them twenty leagues from the other, all farther North. Here they stood into the bay until they

made the land again; for at the first opening of the bay, they could not see the bottom of it, the land lying very low.

The captain was doubtful what he should do upon the appearance of so large a bay, and was loth to stand farther in, lest the land, pushing out into the sea again afterwards, and a gale springing up from sea-ward, they might be shut into a bay where they had no knowledge of the ground; and upon this caution, they resolved among themselves to come to an anchor for that evening, and to put farther out to sea the next morning.

Accordingly, the next morning he weighed, and stood off to sea; but the weather being very fine, and the little wind that blew, being South West by South, he ventured to stand in for the shore,

shore, where he found two or three small creeks, and one large river, and sending in his shallop to sound, and find out a good place to ride in, upon their making the signal to him, that they had found such a place, he stood in, and came to an anchor in eleven fathom good ground, half a league from the shore, and well defended from the Northerly and Easterly winds, which were the winds we had any reason to fear.

Having thus brought his ship to an anchor, he sent his shallop along the shore to give me an account of it, and desire me to come up to him, which accordingly we did; and here we resolved to ride for some time, in hopes to hear from our little army.

F 3

We

We went on shore, some or other of us, every day, and especially when five of our men, going on shore on the North side of the river, had shot three Peruvian sheep, and a black wild bull; for after that, they ranged the country far and near to find more, but could never come within shot of them, except three bulls and a cow, which they killed after a long and tedious chace.

We lay here till the sixteenth of February, without any news of our travellers, as I called them. All the hopes we had, was, that five of our men, asking my leave to travel, swore to me, they would go quite up to the Andes, but they would find them; nay, they would go to the Spanish gentleman himself, if they did not hear of them; and obliged me

me to stay twenty days for them, and no longer. This I readily promised, and giving them every thing they asked, and two of the Peruvian sheep to carry their ammunition, with two dozen of rockets for signals, a speaking trumpet, and a good perspective glass, away they went; and from them we had yet heard no news, so that was our present hope.

They travelled, as they afterwards gave an account, one hundred and twenty miles up the country, till they were at last forced to resolve to kill one of their Guinacos, or sheep, to satisfy their hunger, which was a great grief to them; for their luggage was heavy to carry; but, I say, they only resolved on it, for just as they were going to do it, one of them roused a

deer with a fawn, and, by great good luck, shot them both; for having killed the doe, the fawn stood still by her, till he had loaded his piece again, and shot that also.

This supplied them for four or five days plentifully, and the last day, one of my men, being by the bank of the river, for they kept as near the river as they could, in hopes to hear of them that way, saw something black come driving down the stream; he could not reach it, but calling one of his fellows, their curiosity was such, that the other, being a good swimmer, stripped, and put off to it, and when he came to it, he found it was a man's hat; this made them conclude their fellows were not far off, and that they were coming by water.

Upon

Upon this, they made to the first rising ground they could come at, and there they encamped, and, at night, fired some rockets, and after the third rocket was fired, they, to their great joy, saw two rockets rise up from the Westward, and soon after that, a third; and in two days more, they all joyfully met.

We had been here, as I have said, impatiently expecting them a great while; but at last, the man at the main-top, who was ordered to look out, called aloud to us below, that he saw a flash of fire, and immediately, the men looking to land-ward, they saw two rockets rise up in the air at a great distance, which we answered by firing three rockets again, and they returned

by one rocket, to signify, that they saw our men's signal.

This was a joyful exchange of distant language to both sides, but I was not there; for being impatient, I had put out, and sailed about ten leagues farther; but our ship fired three guns to give me notice, which, however, we heard not, and yet we knew they fired too; for, it being in the night, our men, who were very attentive with their eyes, as well as ears, saw plainly the three flashes of the guns, though they could not hear the report, the wind being contrary.

This was such certain intelligence to me, and I was so impatient to know how things went, that, having also a small gale of wind, I weighed immediately, and stood back again to
our

our other ship; it was not, however, till the second day after we weighed, that we came up to them, having little or no wind all the first day; the next day, in the morning, they spied us, and fired the three guns again, being the signal, that they had got news of our friends.

Nothing could be more to my satisfaction, than to hear, that they had got news, and it was as much to their satisfaction as to ours, to be sure, I mean our little army; for if any disaster had happened to us, they had been in a very odd condition; and though they might have found means to subsist, yet they would have been out of all hope of ever returning to their own country.

Upon the signal, I stood into the bay, and came to an anchor

at about a league to the Northward of our other ship, and as far from the shore; and, as it were, in the mouth of the river, waiting for another signal from our men, by which we might judge, which side of the river to go a shore at, and might take some proper measures to come at them.

About five o'clock in the evening, our eyes, being all up in the air, and towards the hills, for the appointed signals, beheld, to our great surprize, a canoe come rowing to us out of the mouth of the river; immediately we went to work with our perspective glasses. One said it was one thing, and one said it was another, until I fetched a large telescope out of the cabin, and with that I could easily see they were my own men, and it was to our inexpressible satisfaction,

satisfaction, that they soon after came directly on board.

It might very well take up another volume, to give a farther account of the particulars of their journey, or rather their journey and voyage.

How they got through the hills, and were entertained by the generous Spaniard; and afterwards by the wealthy Chilian: how the men, greedy for gold, were hardly brought away from the mountains: and how, once, they had much ado to persuade them not to rob the honest Chilian who had used them so well, till my lieutenant, then their captain, by a stratagem, seized on their weapons, and threatened to speak to the Spaniard to raise the Chilians in the mountains, and have all their throats cut; and yet, even this did not suffice, till the

the two midshipmen, then their lieutenants, assured them, that at the first opening of the hills, and in the rivers beyond, they would have plenty of gold; and one of the midshipmen told them, that if he did not see them have so much gold, that they would not stoop to take up any more, they should have all his share to be divided among them, and should leave him behind in the first desolate place they could find.

How this appeased them till they came to the outer edge of the mountains, where I had been, and where my patron the Spaniard left them, having supplied them with sixteen mules to carry their baggage, and some Guinacoes, or sheep of Peru, which would carry burthens, and afterwards be good to eat also.

Also,

Also, how here they mutinied again, and would not be drawn away, being insatiable in their thirst after gold, till about twenty, more reasonable than the rest, were content to move forward; and, after some time, the rest followed, though not till they were assured, that the picking up of gold continued all along the river, which began at the bottom of the mountains, and that it was likely to continue a great way farther.

How they worked their way down these streams, with still an insatiable avarice and thirst after the gold, to the lake called the golden-lake, and how here they were astonished at the quantity they found: how, after this, they had great difficulty to furnish themselves with provisions, and greater

greater still, in carrying it along with them until they found more.

I say, all these accounts might suffice to make another volume as large as this. How, at the farther end of the lake, they found that it evacuated itself into a large river, which, running away with a strong current, to the South South East, and afterwards to the South by East encouraged them to build canoes, in which they embarked, and which river brought them down to the very bay where we found them; but that they met with many difficulties, sunk, and staved their canoes several times, by which they lost some of their baggage, and in one disaster, lost a great parcel of their gold, to their great surprise and mortification: How, at

at one place, they split two of their canoes, where they could find no timber to build new ones, and the many hardships they were put to before they got other canoes: But I shall give a brief account of it all, and bring it into as narrow a compass as I can.

They set out, as I have said, with mules and horses to carry their baggage, and the Spaniard gave them a servant with them for a guide, who carrying them by-ways, and unfrequented, so that they might give no alarm at the town of Villa Rica, or any where else, they came to the mouth of the entrance into the mountains, and there they pitched their tent.

N. B. The lieutenant who kept their journal, giving an account

account of this, merrily, in his sea language, expresses it thus; "Being all come safe into the opening that is in the entrance of the mountains, and being there free from the observation of the country, we called it our first port, so we brought to, and came to an anchor."

Here the generous Spaniard, who, at his own request, was gone before, sent his gentleman and one of his sons to them, and sent them plenty of provisions, as also caused their mules to be changed for others that were fresh, and had not been fatigued with any of the other part of the journey.

These things being done, the Spaniard's gentleman caused them
to

to decamp, and march two days farther into the mountains, and then they encamped again, where the Spaniard himself came incognito to them, and with the utmost kindness and generosity, was their guide himself, and their purveyor also, though two or three times, the fellows were so rude, so ungovernable, and unbounded in their hunting after gold, that the Spaniard was almost frightened at them, and told the captain of it: Nor, indeed, was it altogether without cause; for the dogs were so ungrateful, that they robbed two of the houses of the Chilians, and took what gold they had, which was not much indeed, but it hazarded so much the alarming the country, and raising all the Mountaineers upon them, that the Spaniard was upon the point of flying

flying from them, in spite of all their fire-arms and courage.

But the captain begged him to stay one night more, and promised to have the fellows punished, and satisfaction to be made; and so he brought all his men together and talked to them, and enquired who it was: But never was such a piece of work in the world: When the new captain came to talk of who did it, and of punishment, they cried, they all did it, and they did not value all the Spaniards or Indians in the country; they would have all the gold in the whole mountains, ay, that they would, and swore to it, and if the Spaniard offered to speak a word to them, they would chop his head off, and put a stop to his farther jawing

However,

However, a little reasoning with them, brought some of the men to their senses, and the captain, who was a man of sense and of a smooth tongue, managed so well, that he brought about twenty-two of the men, and the two lieutenants and surgeons to declare for his opinion, and that they would act better for the future; and with these, he stepped in between the other fellows, and separated about eighteen of them from their arms, for they had run scattering among the rocks to hunt for gold, and when they were called to this parley, had not their weapons with them: By this stratagem he seized eleven of the thieves, and made them prisoners; and then he told the rest in so many words, that if they would not comply to keep order,

order, and obey the rules they were at first sworn to, and had promised, he would force them to it, for he would deliver them, bound hand and foot, to the Spaniards, and they should do the poor Chilians justice upon them; for that, in short, he would not have the rest murdered for them; upon this, he ordered his men to draw up, to shew them he would be as good as his word, when, after some consideration, they submitted.

But the Spaniard had taken a wiser course than this, or, perhaps, they had been all murdered; for, he ran to the two Chilian houses which the rogues had plundered, and where, in short, there was a kind of tumult about it, and with good words, promising to give them as much gold as they lost, and
the

the price of some other things that were taken away, he appeased the people; and so our men were not ruined, as they would certainly have been, if the mountaineers had taken the alarm.

After this they grew a little more governable, but, in short, the sight of the gold, and the easy getting it, for they picked it up in abundance of places; I say, the sight of the gold, made them stark mad; for now, they were not as they were before, trafficking for the owners and for the voyage: But, as I had promised the gold they got should be their own, and that they were now working for themselves, there was no getting them to go on, but, in short, they would dwell here; and this was as fatal a humour as the other.

But

But to bring this part of the voyage to an end, after eight days they came to the hospitable wealthy Chilian's house, whom I mentioned before; and here, as the Spaniard had contrived it, they found all kind of needful stores for provisions laid up, as it were, on purpose; and, in a word, here they were not fed only, but feasted.

Here again, the captain discovered a cursed conspiracy, which, had it taken effect, would, besides the baseness of the fact, have ended in their total destruction; in short, they had resolved to rob this Chilian who was so kind to them: but, as I said, one of the lieutenants discovered and detected this villanous contrivance, and quashed it, so as never to let the Spaniard know of it.

But,

But, I say, to end this part; they were one and twenty days in this traverse, for they could not go on so easy and so fast, now they were a little army, as we did, who were but six or seven; at length they came to the view of the open country, and, being all encamped, at the edge of a descent, the generous Spaniard, and his three servants, took his leave, wishing them a good journey, and so went back, having the day before, brought them some deer, five or six cows and some sheep, for their subsisting at their entrance into, and travel through the plain country.

And now they began to descend towards the plain, but they met with more difficulty here than they expected; for, as I observed, that the way, for

some miles, went with an ascent, towards the farthest part of the hill, that continued ascent, had by degrees, brought them to a very great, and, in some places, an impassable descent; so that, however my guide found his way down, when I was through, it was not so easy for them to do it, who were so many in number, and incumbered with mules and horses, and with their baggage, so that they knew not what to do; and if they had not known that our ships were gone away, there had been some odds, but, like the Israelites of old, they would have murmured against their leader, and have all gone back to Egypt. In a word, they were at their wits end, and knew not what course to take for two or three days, trying and essaying to get down
here

here and there, and then frightened with precipices and rocks, and climbing up to get back again. The whole of the matter was, that they had missed a narrow way, where they should have turned off to the South East, the marks which our men had made before, having not been so regular and exact just there, as in other parts of the way, or some other turning being so very like the same, that they took one for the other; and thus going strait forward too far, before they turned, they came to an opening indeed, and saw the plain country under them, as they had done before; but the descent was not so practicable.

After they had puzzled themselves here, as I said, two or three days, one of the lieutenants and a man with him,
G 2 seeing

seeing a hut or house of a Chilian at some distance, rode away towards it; but passing into a valley that lay between, he met with a river which he could by no means get over with the mules; so he came back again in despair: The captain then resolved to send back to the honest rich Chilian, who had entertained them so well, for a guide, or to desire him to give them such directions, as they might not mistake.

But as the person sent back, was one of those who had taken the journal which I mentioned, and was therefore greatly vexed at missing his way in such a manner; so he had his eyes in every corner, and pulled out his pocket-book at every turning, to see how the marks of places agreed; and at last, the very next morning after he set
out,

out, he spied the turning where they should all have gone in, to have come to the place which they were at before: This being so remarkable a discovery, he came back again directly, without going on to the Chilian's house, which was two days journey farther.

Our men were revived with this discovery, and all agreed to march back; so, having lost about six days in this false step, they got into the right way, and in four more, came to the descent, where I had been before.

Here the hill was still very high, and the passage down, was steep and difficult enough; but still, it was practicable, and our men could see the marks of cattle having passed there, as if they had gone in drifts or droves;

also it was apparent, that, by some help and labour of hands, the way might be led winding and turning on the slope of the hill, so as to make it much easier to get down than it was now.

It cost them no small labour, however, to get down, chiefly because of the mules, which very often fell down with their loads, and our men said, they believed, they could, with much more ease, have mounted up from the East side to the top, than they came from the West side to the bottom.

They encamped one night on the declivity of the hill, but got up early, and was at the bottom and on the plain ground by noon: As soon as they came there, they encamped and refreshed themselves, that is to say,

say, went to dinner; but it being very hot there, the cool breezes of the mountains having now left them, they were more inclined to sleep than to eat; so the captain ordered the tent to be set up, and they made the whole day of it, calling a council in the morning to consider what course they should steer, and how they should go on.

Here they came to this resolution, that they should send two men, a considerable way up the hill again; to take the strictest observation they could of the plain, with the largest glasses they had, and to mark which way the nearest river or water was to be seen; and they should direct their course, first to the water, and that if the course of it lay South or any

way to the East of the South, they would follow on the bank of it, and as soon as it was large enough to carry them, they would make them some canoes or shallops, or what they could do with the most ease, to carry them on by water; also they directed them to observe if they could see any cattle feeding at a distance, or the like.

The messengers returned, and brought word, that all the way to the East and so on to South East, they could discover nothing of water, but that they had seen a great lake or lough of water at a great distance, which looked like a sea, and lay from them to the Northward of the East, about two points; adding, that they did not know, but it might afterwards empty itself to the Eastward, and

and it was their opinion to make the best of their way thither.

Accordingly the next morning the whole body decamped and marched East North East very chearfully, but found the way much longer than they expected; for though from the mountains, the country seemed to lie flat and plain, yet when they came to measure it by their feet, they found a great many little hills; little, I say, compared to the great mountains, but great to them who were to travel over them in the heat, and with but very indifferent support as to provisions; so that in a word, the captain very prudently ordered, that they should travel only three hours in the morning, and three in the evening, and encamp in the heat of the day, to refresh themselves as well as they could.

The best thing they met with in that part of the country, was, that they had plenty of water; for though they were not yet come to any large considerable river, yet, every low piece of ground, had a small rill of water in it; and the springs coming out from the rising grounds, on the sides of the mountains, being innumerable, made many such small brooks.

It cost them six days travel, with two days resting between, to advance to that river of water, which, from the height of the mountains, seemed to be but a little way off: They could not march, by their computation, above ten or twelve miles a day, and rest every third day too, for their luggage was heavy, and their mules but few; also some of their mules became
tired

tired and jaded, by their long march, or fell lame, and were good for nothing.

Besides all this, the days which I call days of rest, were really not so to them, for those intervals were employed to range about and hunt for food; and it was for that, more than for want of rest, that they halted every third day.

In this exercise they did, however, meet with such success, that they made shift to kill one sort of creature or another every day, sufficient to keep them from famishing; sometimes they met with some deer, other times with the Guinacoes or Peruvian sheep, and sometimes with fowls of several kinds, so that they did pretty well for food: at length, viz. the seventh day, they came to a river, which was at first

small, but having received another small river or two from the Northern part of the country, it began to seem large enough for their purpose, and as it ran East South East they concluded it would run into the lake, and that they might fleet down this river, if they could make any thing to carry them.

But their first discouragement was, the country was all open, with very little wood, and no trees, or very few, to be found large enough to make canoes, or boats of any sort; but the skill of their carpenters, of which they had four, soon conquered this difficulty; for coming to a low swampy ground, on the side of the river, they found a tree something like a beech, very firm good sort of wood; and yet soft enough to yield to their tools;

tools ; and they went to work with this, and at first, made them some rafts ; which they thought might carry them along, till the river was bigger.

While this was doing (which took up two or three days) the men straggled up and down ; some with their guns to shoot fowls, some with contrivances, to catch fish, some one thing, some another ; when, on a sudden, one of their fishermen, not in the river, but in a little brook, which afterwards ran into the river, found a little bit of shining stuff among the sand, or earth in the bank ; and cryed, he had found a piece of gold : Now it seems all was not gold that glistened, for the lump had no gold in it, whatever it was ; but the word being given out at first, it immediately set all our
men

men a rumaging the shores of every little rill of water they came at, to see if there was any gold; and they had not looked long, but they found several little grains very small and fine, not only in this brook, but in several others: So they spent their time the more chearfully, because they made some advantage.

All this while they saw no people, nor any signals of any, except once on the other side of the river, at a great distance, they saw about thirty together, but whether men or women, or how many of each, they could not tell, nor would they come any nearer; only stood and gazed at our people at a distance.

They were now ready to quit their camp and embark, intending to lay all their baggage on
the

the rafts, with three or four sick men, and so the rest to march by the river side, and as many as could, to ride upon the mules; when, on a sudden, all their navigation was put to a stop, and their new vessels, such as they were, suffered a wreck.

The case was thus: they had observed a great many black clouds to hang over the tops of the mountains, and some of them even below the tops, and they did believe it rained among the hills; but in the plain where they lay, and all about them, it was fair, and the weather fine.

But in the night, the carpenters and their assistants, who had set up a little tent near the river side, were alarmed with a great roaring noise (as they thought) in the river, though at a distance upwards; presently after, they found the water begin to come
into

into their tent; when running out, they found the river was swelling over its banks, and all the low grounds on both sides of them.

To their great satisfaction it was just break of day, so that they could see enough to make their way from the water; and the land very happily rising a little to the south of the river, they immediately fled thither; two of them had so much presence of mind with them, as to pick up their working-tools, at least some of them, and carry off, and the water rising gradually, the other two carpenters ventured back to save the rest; but they were put to some difficulty to get back again with them; in a word, the water rose to such a height, that it carried away their tent, and every thing that was in it, and, which
was

was worse, their rafts, (for they had almost finished four large ones) were all lifted off from the place where they were framed, which was a kind of a dry dock, and dashed all to pieces, and the timber, such as it was, all carried away : the smaller brooks also swelled in proportion to the larger river ; so that, in a word, our men lay, as it were, surrounded with water, and began to be in a terrible consternation ; for though they lay in a hard dry piece of ground, too high for the land-flood to reach them, yet had the rains continued in the mountains, they might have lain there till they had been obliged to eat one another, and so there had been an end of our new discovery.

But the weather cleared up among the hills the next day, which heartened them up again ;
and

and as the flood rose so soon, so the current being furiously rapid, the waters ran off again as easily as they came on, and in two days the water was all gone again. But our little float was shipwrecked, as I have said, and the carpenters finding how dangerous such great unweildly rafts would be, resolved to set to it, and build one large float with sides to it like a punt or ferry-boat. They worked so hard at this, ten of the men always working with them to help, that in five days they had her finished: the only thing they wanted was pitch and tar, to make her upper-work keep out the water; and they made a shift to fetch a juice out of some of the wood they had cut, by help of fire, that answered the end tolerably well.

But that which made this disap-

appointment less afflicting, was, that our other men hunting about the small streams where this water had come down so furiously, found that there was more gold, and the more for the late flood. This made them run straggling up the streams; and, as the captain said, he thought once they would run quite back to the mountains again.

But that was his ignorance too, for after a while, and the nearer they came to the rising of the hills, the quantity abated; for where the streams were so furious, the water washed it all away, and carried it down with it; so that by the end of five days the men found but little, and began to come back again.

But then they discovered, that, though there was less in the higher part of the rivers, there
was

was more farther down, and they found it so well worth while, that they went looking along for gold all the way towards the lake, and left their fellows and the boat to come after.

At last, when nothing else would do it, hunger called them off, and so once more all the company were got together again; and now they began to load the float, indeed it might be called a luggage boat: however, it answered very well, and was a great relief to our men; but when they came to load it, they found it would not carry near so much as they had to put in it; besides, that they would be all obliged to march on foot by the shore, which had this particular inconvenience in it, that whenever they came to any small river or brook, which
ran

ran into the other, as was very often the case, they would be forced to march up a great way to get over it, or unload the great float to make a ferry-boat of it to waft them over.

Upon this, they resolved, that the first place they came at, where timber was to be had for building, they would go to work again, and make two or three more floats not so big as the other, that so they might embark themselves, their baggage, and their provisions too all together, and take the full benefit of the river, where it would afford them help, and not some sail on the water, and some go on foot upon the land, which would be very fatiguing.

Therefore, as soon as they found timber, as I have said, and a convenient place, they went

went all hands to work to build more floats or boats, and while this was doing, all the spare men, spent their time and pains in searching about for gold in the brooks and small streams, as well those they had been at before, as others; and that after they had, as it were, plundered them at the first discovery; for as they had found some gold after the hasty rain, they were loth to give it over, though they had been assured there was more to be found in the lake where they were yet to come, than in the brooks.

All this while their making the floats went slowly on, for the men thought it a great hardship to keep chopping of blocks, as they called it, while their fellows were picking up gold, though they knew they were

were to have their share of what they found, as much as if they had been all the while with them : But, it seems, there is a kind of satisfaction in the work of picking up gold, besides the mere gain.

However, at length, the gold failing, they began to think of their more immediate work, which was going forward ; and the carpenters having made three more floats like flat-bottomed barges, which they brought to be able to carry their baggage and themselves too, if they thought fit, they began to embark and fall down the river, but they grew sick of their navigation in a very few days ; for before they got to the lake, which was but three days going, they ran several times on ground, and were obliged to
lighten

lighten their floats to get them off again, then load again, and lighten again, and so off and on, till they were so tired of them; that they would much rather have carried all their baggage, and have travelled by land: And at last they were forced to cast off two of them, and put all their baggage on board the other two; which, at best, though large, were but very poor crazy things.

At length, they came in sight of their beloved lake, and the next day they entered into the open part or sea of it, which they found was very large, and in some places very deep.

Their floats, or by what other name they might be called, were by no means fit to carry them upon this inland sea; for, if the water had been agitated by
the

the least gust of wind, it would presently have washed over them, and have spoiled, if not sunk, their baggage; so they had no way to steer or guide them whenever they came into deep water where they could not reach the ground with their poles.

This obliged them, as soon as they came into the open lake, to keep close under one shore, that is to say, to the right hand, where the land falling away to the South and the South and by East, seemed to carry them still forward on their way; the other side widening to the North made the lake seem there to be really a sea, for they could not look over it unless they went on shore, and got upon some rising ground.

Here, at first, they found the shore steep too, and a great depth

of water close to land, which made them very uneasy; for if the least gale of wind had disturbed the water, especially blowing from off the lake, they would have been shipwrecked close to the shore. However, after they had gone for two days along the side, by the help of towing and setting as well as they could, they came to a flatter shore and a fair strand, to their great joy and satisfaction.

But if the shore proved to their satisfaction for its safety, it was much more so on another account; for they had not been long here, before they found the sands or shore infinitely rich in gold, beyond all they had seen, or thought of seeing, before. They had no sooner made the discovery, than they resolved to possess themselves of a treasure

sure that was to enrich them all for ever; accordingly, they went to work with such an avaricious spirit, that they seemed to be as if they were plundering an enemy's camp, and that there was an army at hand to drive them from the place; and, as it proved, they were in the right to do so; for in this gust of their greedy appetite, they considered not where they were, and upon what tender ticklish terms their navigation stood.

They had indeed drawn their two floats to the shore as well as they could, and with pieces of wood, like piles, stuck in on every side, brought them to ride easy, but had not taken the least thought about change of weather, though they knew they had neither anchor or cable, nor

so much as a rope large enough to fasten them with on the shore.

But they were taught more wit to their cost in two or three days; for the very second night, they felt a little unusual rising of the water, as they thought, though without any wind; and the next morning, they found the water of the lake was swelled about two feet perpendicular, and that their floats, by that means, lay a great way farther from the shore than they did at first, and the water still increasing.

This made them imagine there was a tide in the lake, and that after a little time it would abate again; but they soon found their mistake; for, after some time, they perceived the water, which was perfectly fine and clear

clear before, grew, by degrees, of a paler colour, thick, and whitish, till at last it was quite white and muddy, as is usual in land floods; and as it still continued rising, so they continued thrusting in their floats farther and farther towards the shore, till they had, in short, lost all the fine golden sands they were at work upon before, and found the lake overflowed the land so far beyond them, that, in short, they seemed to be in the middle of the lake, for they could scarce see to the end of the water, even on that very side where, but a few hours before, their floats were fast on the sands.

It may be easily judged, that this put them into great consternation, and they might well conclude, that they should be all drowned and lost; for they were

now, as it were, in the middle of the sea upon two open floats or rafts, fenced no where from the least surge or swell of the water, except by a kind of waste board, about two feet high, built up on the sides, without any caulking or pitching, or any thing to keep out the water.

They had neither mast or sail, anchor or cable, head or stern, no bows to fence off the waves, or rudder to steer any course, or oars to give any motion to their floats, whose bottoms were flat like a punt; so that they were obliged to thrust them along with such poles as they had, some of which were about eight or ten feet long, which gained them a little way, though very slowly.

All the remedy they had in this case, was to set on with
their

their poles towards the shore, and to observe by their pocket-compasses which way it lay: And this they laboured hard at, lest they should be lost in the night, and not know which way to go.

Their carpenters, in the mean time, with some spare boards which they had, or rather made, raised their sides as well as they could, to keep off the wash of the sea, if any wind should rise so as to make the water rough; and thus they fenced against every danger as well as they could, though all put together, they were but in a very sorry condition.

Now they had time to reflect upon their voracious fury, in ranging the shore to pick up gold, without considering where, and in what condition they were,

and without looking out on shore for a place of safety: Nay, they might now have reflected on the madness of venturing out into a lake or inland sea of that vast extent, in such pitiful bottoms as they had under them. Their business, doubtless, had been to have stopped within the mouth of the river, and found a convenient place to land their goods and secure their lives; and when they had pitched their camp upon any safe high ground, where they might be sure they could neither be overflowed or surrounded with water, they might have searched the shores of the lake as far as they thought fit; but thus to launch into an unknown water, and in such a condition, as to their vessels, as is described above,

bove, was most unaccountably rash and inconsiderate.

Never were a crew of fifty men, all able and experienced sailors, so embarked, nor drawn into such a snare; for they were surrounded with water for three or four miles in breadth on the nearest shore, and this all on a sudden, the country lying low and flat for such a breadth; all which appeared dry land, and green, like the fields, but the day before; and, without question, the men were sufficiently surprized.

Now they would have given all the gold they had got, which was very considerable too, to have been on shore on the wildest and most barren part of the country, and would have trusted to their own diligence to get food: But here, besides the im-

minent danger of drowning, they might also be in danger of starving; for had their floats grounded but upon any little hillock, they might have stuck there till they had starved and perished for hunger: Then they were in the utmost anxiety too, for fear of wetting their powder, which if it had happened, they could never have made serviceable again, and without it they could not have killed any thing for food, if they had got to the shore.

They had, in this exigence, some comforts however, which might a little uphold their spirits; and without which, indeed, their condition must have been deplorable and desperate.

1. It was hot weather, so that, as they had no shelter against the cold if it had come, they had no cold to afflict them; but they rather wanted awnings, to
keep

keep off the sun, than houses to keep off the cold.

2. The water of the lake was fresh and good, even when it looked white and thick, yet it was very sweet, wholesome and good tasted: Had it been salt water, and they thus in the middle of it, they must have perished with thirst.

3. They being now floating over the drowned lands only, the water was not very deep, so that they could reach ground, and set along their rafts with their poles; and this, to be sure, they failed not to do with the utmost diligence.

They had also the satisfaction to observe, though it was not without toiling in an inexpressible manner, that they gained upon the shore; and that there was a high land before them,

which they were making for, though very slowly, and at a distance they hoped to overcome.

But soon after, they had another discouragement, namely, that they saw the day declining, and night coming on apace, and, in short, that it was impossible they could reach the high land, which they saw, by day-light, nor did they know what to do, or how to go on in the night.

At length, two bold fellows offered themselves to strip and go off, either to wade or swim to the shore, which they had yet day-light enough to do, being, as they judged, about three miles, though they found it above four; and from thence to find means to make a fire or light, to guide them to the shore in the dark.

This was, indeed, a desperate attempt, but the two fellows being

ing good swimmers, and willing to venture, it was not impracticable. They had light linen drawers on, with pockets, and open at the knees, and their shirts; each of them took a little bottle with some gun-powder close stopped, with other materials for kindling fire; weapons they had none, but each man a knife and a hatchet fastened round his waist in a little belt, and a light pole in his hands to help him when he waded, which it was expected they must do part of the way. They had no provisions with them, but a bottle with some good brandy in their pockets above-mentioned.

When they went off, it was supposed the water to be about four feet to five feet deep, so they chose to swim rather than wade,

wade, and, it was very seldom much deeper; they had often opportunity to stand on the firm ground to rest themselves.

In this posture they went on directly towards the land, and after they had by swimming and wading together, advanced about a mile, they found the water grew shallower, which was a signal to them that they should reach the hard ground in a little time; so they walked chearfully on in about three feet water for near a mile more.

Their companions on board the rafts, soon lost sight of them, for they being in white, and the water white too, and the light declining, they could not see them at a mile distance. After this, they found the ground falling lower, so that they had deeper water, for half a mile more all the

the way ; after which, they came to flat ground again for near two miles more, and at length to the dry land, to their great satisfaction, though it was then quite night.

They had been near an hour in the dark, that is to say, with only a dusky light, and began to be greatly at a loss, not being able to see the compass ; they had made shift to get over the half mile of deeper water pretty well ; for though it was too deep for the two men to wade, as above, yet they could reach the bottom with their poles, and at that time they happened to feel a little breeze of wind fair in their way, which not only refreshed them but gave them a kind of a jog on their way towards the shore.

At

At length, to their great joy, they saw a light; and it was the more to their joy, because they saw it just before them, or, as the seamen call it, right a-head; by which they had the satisfaction to know they had not varied their course in the dark. It seems their two men had landed upon a fair rising ground, where they found some low bushes and trees, and where they had good hard dry standing; and they soon found means to pick out a few withered dry sticks, with which they made a blaze for the present, having struck fire with the tools they were furnished with, as mentioned above.

By the light of this blaze, they gave the first notice to their comrades, that they were landed; and they in return, as was agreed

agreed on before, fired two guns as a signal that they saw it, and were all safe.

By the light of this fire, the two men also gave themselves so much light as to find more dry wood; and afterwards their fire was so strong and good, that they made the green wood burn as well as the dry.

Their companions on the floats, were now come into the shoal water, in which, as I said, the men waded, but as their floats did not draw above a foot or eighteen inches water at most, they went on still; but at length, being within about half a mile of the hillock, where the two men were, they found the water so shallow, that their floats would not swim. Upon this, more of the men went over-board with poles in their hands, founding,
as

as we may call it, for deeper water; and, with long puddling about, they found the ground fall off a little in one place, by which they got their floats about a quarter of a mile farther: But then the water was shallow again not above a foot water. So, in a word, they were fain to be content, and running fast a-ground, they immediately began, though dark, and themselves very much fatigued, to unload their floats, and carry all on shore on their backs.

The first thing they took care to land, was their ammunition, their gun-powder and arms; not forgetting the ammunition *de bouche*, as the French call it, I mean their victuals; and, with great joy, they got to their two comrades; then they fetched their proper materials for their tent,

tent, and set it up, and having refreshed themselves, they went all to sleep (as they said) without so much as a centinel placed for their guard: For as they saw no inhabitants, so they feared no enemies; and, it may be supposed they were weary enough to make them want rest, even in the extremest manner.

In the morning they had time enough to reflect upon the madness of such rash adventures. Their floats, indeed, remained as they had left them, and the water was ebbed away from them for more than two miles, that is to say, almost to the deep half mile, mentioned above; but they heard a surprizing noise and roaring of the water on the lake itself, the body of which was now above seven miles from them.

They

They could not imagine what this roaring should mean, for they felt no wind, nor could they perceive any clouds at a distance that looked as if they brought any squalls of wind with them, as they are often observed to do: But when they came nearer the water, they found it had a kind of a swell, and that there was certainly some more violent motion at the farther distance; and in a little while, looking behind them towards the shore where their comrades were, they found the water began to spread over the flat ground again; upon which, they hastened back, but having a good way to go, they were obliged to wade knee-deep, before they reached to the hillock where their tent stood.

They

They had not been many hours on shore, before they found the wind began to rise, and the roaring, which before they heard at a distance, grew louder and nearer, till at length the floats were lifted up, and driven on shore, by the wind, which increased to a storm; and the water swelled and grew rough, and, as they were upon the lee shore, the floats were soon broken in pieces, and went some one way and some another.

In the evening, it overcast and grew cloudy, and about midnight they had their share of a violent rain, which yet, they could see, was more violent towards the mountains of the Andes, and towards the course of the river, which they came down in the floats.

The consequence of this was,
that,

that, the third day, the waters of the lake swelled again to a frightful height; that is to say, it would have been frightful to them, if they had been upon it, for they supposed it rose about two fathom perpendicularly, and the wind continuing fresh, the water was all a white foam of froth; so that had they been favoured with even a good large boat under them, she would scarce have lived there.

Their tent was a sufficient shelter from the rain, and as they were on dry land, and too high to be reached by any inundation, they had no concern upon them about their safety; but took this for sufficient notice, not to come up the lake again in haste, unless they were better provided with boats to ride out a storm.

Our

Our men began now to think they had taken their leave of the golden lake, and yet they knew not how to think of leaving it so soon: They were now fourteen or fifteen leagues from the shore where they had found so much gold, nor did they know the way to it by land; and as for going by water, that they were unprovided for, several ways; besides, the waters kept up to a considerable height, and the winds blew fresh for six or eight days without intermission.

All these obstructions joined together, put them upon considering of pursuing their march by land; in which, however, they resolved to coast the lake as near as they could to the Eastward, till, if possible, they should find that the waters had some outlet, that is to say, that
the

the lake emptied itself by some river towards the sea, as they concluded it certainly must.

They had not yet seen any inhabitants, or any sign of them, at least, not near them; they saw, or fancied they saw some on the other side of the river, but as none came within reach of them, it is doubtful whether they really saw them or not.

Before they decamped for a march, it was needful to get some provisions, if possible, and this made them the more desirous of finding out some conversible creatures, but it was in vain: They killed a wild cow and a deer, and this was all they could get for some time; and with this they set forward, taking their coast East, and rather Northerly, in order to come into the same latitude they set out

out in, at their first embarking on the river.

After they had marched thus for about three days, keeping the lake on the North side of them, and always in view; at length, on the third day in the evening, coming to a little hill, which gave them the prospect of the country for some length North East, they saw plainly a river issuing out of the lake, and running first East, then bending to the South, it was also easy to perceive, that this river was at that time much broader than in its usual course, for that they could see a great many trees, which probably grew on the banks of the river, standing as it were, in the middle of the water, the banks being overflowed both ways very considerably.

VOL. III.

I

But

But as they mounted the hill, which they stood on, to a greater height, they discovered farther North, at a distance of five or six miles, according to their account, a much larger river, which looked, compared to the first, rather like a sea than a river, which likewise issued out of the lake and ran East by South towards the sea; which river they supposed to be in the same manner swelled with a land-water, to a prodigious degree.

This prospect brought them to a more serious consultation, as to the measures they should take to proceed on their journey; and as they could easily see, there was little or no use to be made of the rivers for their travelling, while the water was thus above the ordinary banks, so that they could not know
the

the proper channels, and also that the currents were exceeding swift; so they resolved to stock themselves with provisions, if possible, and continue their journey by land.

To this purpose, they first made it their business to catch some more Guinacoes, or large sheep, which they knew, would not only feed them, but also carry their luggage, which was still heavy and very troublesome to them, and yet absolutely necessary too: But all their endeavour was in vain, for though they saw several, and found that the country was pretty full of them, and some they killed, yet they could not take one alive, by any means they could contrive.

Among other creatures they shot for food, were a few wild

cows and bulls, and especially on the North side of the river, where they found great plenty.

But the most surprizing thing to them that they had yet met with, was still to come: They had descended from the hill, where they at first discovered the smaller river, and where they had set up their tent, resolving to march on the lower grounds, as near the river as they could, so as to be out of danger of the water, that they might find if possible, some way over to come at the great river, which they judged to be the stream most proper for their business.

Here they found a rich pleasant country, level and fruitful, not so low as to be exposed to the overflowing of the river, and not so high as to be dry and barren; several little brooks and streams
of

of water, rising on the side of the hill they came from, ran winding this way and that, as if to find out the river, and near the river were some woods of very large trees.

The men not forgetting the main chance, fell to washing and searching the sand and gravel in these brooks for gold; but the harvest of gold seemed to be over, for here they found none.

They had also an occasion to discover, that till the land-waters were abated, there was no stirring for them, no, not so much as to cross the first river; nor, if they did, could they find in their hearts to venture, not knowing, but the waters might still rise higher, and that the two rivers might swell into one, and so they should be swallowed

up, or if not, they might be surrounded in some island, where they should perish for want of provisions; so they resolved to fetch their baggage from the hill as well as they could, and encamp in those pleasant plains, as near the river as they could, till the water should abate.

While they stayed here, they were so far from having hopes that the waters would abate, that it rained violently for almost three days and nights together; and one of those rainy mornings, looking out at their tent-door, (for they could not stir abroad for the rain) they were surprized, when looking towards the river, which was just below them, they saw a prodigious number of black creatures in the water, and swimming towards the shore where they were.

They

They first imagined they were porpoises or sea hogs, but could not suggest any thing of that kind at such a distance from the sea, when one of the men looking at them through a glass, cried out, they were all black cattle, and that he could perceive their horns and heads; upon this, others looking with their glasses also, said the same; immediately, every man run to his gun, and, notwithstanding it rained hard, away they marched down to the the river's side with all the speed they could make.

By that time they reached the river-bank, their wonder increased, for they found it was a vast multitude of black cattle, who finding the waters rise between the two rivers, and by a natural sagacity, apprehensive of being swept away with the flood,

had, one and all took the waters, and were swimming over to this side for safety.

It may very well be imagined, the fellows, though they wanted a few such guests as these, yet were terrified with their multitude, and began to consider what course to take when the creatures should come to land, for there was a great number of them: Upon the whole, after a short consultation, for the creatures came on apace, they resolved to get into a low ground, where, they perceived they directed their course, and in which there were a great many trees, and that they would all get up into the trees, and so lie ready to shoot among them as they landed.

Accordingly they did so, excepting five of them, who, by cutting,

cutting down some large boughs of a tree, had got into a little thicket close to the water, and which they so fortified with the boughs of the trees, that they thought themselves secure within, and there they posted themselves, resolving to wait the coming of the cattle, and take their hazard.

When the creatures came to land, it was wonderful to observe, how they lowed and roared, as it were, to bid one another welcome on shore, and spreading themselves upon the neighbouring plain, immediately lay down, and rolling and stretching themselves, gave our people notice, that, in short, they had swam a great way, and were very much tired.

Our fellows soon laid about them, and the five who had

fixed themselves in the thicket, had the fairest opportunity, for they killed eleven or twelve of them as soon as they set their foot on shore, and lamed as many.

And now they had a trial of skill, for as they killed as many as they knew what to do with, and had their choice of beef, if they killed a bull, they let him lie, as having no use for him, but chose the cows, as what they thought was only fit for eating.

But, I say, now they had a trial of skill; namely, to see if they could maim some of the bulls, so as not to kill them, and might bring them to carry their luggage: This was a kind of a fruitless attempt, as we afterwards told them, to make a baggage-horse of a wild bull.

However,

However, they brought it so far to pass, that having wounded several young bulls very much, after they had run roaring about with the hurt, they lay down and bled so, as, that it was likely, they would bleed to death, as several of them really did; but the surgeon observing two of them to be low enough that he might go to them, and do what he would with them, he soon stopped the bleeding, and, in a word, healed the wounds; all the while they were under cure, he caused grass and boughs of trees to be brought to them for food, and in four or five days, the creatures were very well: Then he caused them to be hampered with ropes and tied together, so that they could neither fight with their heads or run away with their heels;

I 6 and

and having thus brought them to a place just by their tent, he caused them to be kept so hungry, and almost starved, that when meat was carried them, they were so tame and thankful, that at last, they would eat out of his hand, and stretch out their heads for it, and when they were let a little looser, would follow him about for a handful of grass, like a dog for a bone.

When he had brought them thus to hand, he, by degrees, loaded them and taught them to carry; and if they were unruly as they were at first, he would load them with more than they could well carry, and make them stand under that load two or three hours, and then come himself and bring them meat, and take the load off; and thus
in

in a few days, they knew him so well, that they would let him do any thing with them.

When our people came to de-camp, they tied them both together, with such ropes as they had, and made them carry a very great weight. They tried the same experiment with two more, but they failed, one died, and the other proved untractable, fullen and outrageous.

The men had now lain here twelve days, having plenty of provision, in which time the weather proving fair, the land-waters ran off and the rivers came to their old channels, clear and calm: The men would gladly have gone back to the sands and ~~on~~ that shore of the lake, or to some other part to look for gold; but that was impracticable now, so they marched on, and

and in about two days, they found the first river seemed to turn so much to the South, that they thought it would carry them too far out of their way, for their orders were to keep about the latitude of forty to fifty degrees, as is said before, so they resolved to get over the first river as soon as they could; they had not gone far, but they found the river so shallow, that they easily forded it, bulls and all, and being safely landed, they travelled across the country to the great river, which they found also very low, though not like to be forded as the other was.

Now, they thought they were in the way of their business, and here they resolved to see if a tree or two might be found, big enough to make a large canoe
to

to carry them down this river, which, as it seemed large, so the current seemed to be less rapid and furious, the channel being deep and full.

They had not searched long, but they found three trees, that they thought large enough, and they immediately went to work with them, felled and shaped them, and in four days time, they had three handsome canoes; one larger than the rest, and able to carry in all, fifteen or sixteen men; but these were not enough, so they were forced to look out farther for two trees more, and this took them up more time. However, in about a week they launched them all: As for days, they had lost their account of time; so that as they had, sometimes, no rule to distinguish one day from another, so

so at last, they quite forgot the days, and knew not a Sunday from a working-day any longer.

While these canoes were making, the men according to the old trade, fell to rummaging the shores of this river, as they had done the other for gold, nor did they wholly loose their labour, for in several places they found some; and here it was, that a certain number of them, taking one of the canoes that were first made, took a voyage of their own heads, not only without command, but against command; and having made a little mast and sail to it, went up towards the lake, resolving to go quite into the lake to find another golden shore or Gold Coast, as they called it.

To give a particular account of this wild undretaking, would be too long, nor would the
rogues

rogues give much account of it themselves; only in short, that they found a land pretty rich in gold, worked upon it five days, indefatigably, and got a sufficient quantity, had they brought it back, to have tempted the rest to have gone all away to the same place: But at the end of five days, some were for returning, and others for staying longer, till the majority prevailed to come back, representing to the rest, that their friends would be gone, and they should be left to starve in that wild country, and should never get home; so they all got into the canoe again, but quarrelled when they were in, and that, to such an unreasonable height, that in short, they fought, over-set the boat, lost all their gold and their arms, except three muskets which
were

were lashed under their thouts or benches of the canoe, spoiled their ammunition and provifion, and drowned one of their company; fo they came home to the reft mortified, wet, and almoft famifhed.

This was a balk to them, and put a damp to their new projects; and yet, fix of the fame men were fo bold afterwards, as to demand to be difmiffed, and a canoe given them, and they would go back they faid to the golden lake; where, they did not doubt, they fhould load the canoe with gold; and if they found when they came back, we were gone, they would find their way back through the mountains, and go to the rich Spaniard, who, they did not doubt, would get them licence to go back to Europe with the galleons, and perhaps,

perhaps, they said, they might be in England before us.

But the captain quelled this mutiny, though there were four or five more came into it. By shewing them the agreement they had made with me, their commander, the obligation they were under, and the madness of their other proposal, he prevailed with them to go forward with the rest, and pursue the voyage, which he now represented to be very easy, being, as it were, all the way down hill, that is to say, with the stream; for they all knew the river they were in must go to the sea, and that, in or near the latitude which they knew the ship had appointed to wait for them.

However, to soften them a little, and in some measure to please them, he promised, that
if

if they met with any success in the search after gold, in the river they were in, as he did not question but they should, he would consent to any reasonable stop that they should propose, not exceeding five days in a place, and the places to be not less than five leagues off from one another.

Upon these terms they consented, and all embarked and came away, though extremely mortified for the loss of one of their companions, who was a brave stout fellow, very well beloved by all the Company, but there was no remedy; so they came on in five canoes, and with a good stock of provisions, such as it was, viz. good fresh beef cured in the sun, and fifteen Peruvian sheep alive; for when they got into the country between the two rivers,

rivers, they found it easy to catch those creatures, who, before that, would not come near them.

And now they came down the river apace, till they came to another golden shore, where, finding some quantity of gold, they claimed their captain's promise, and accordingly they went all on shore to work, and pretty good success they had, picking up, from among the sands, a considerable quantity of gold ; and having stayed four of the five days, they found they had cleared the place, which was not of a long extent, and so they cheerfully came on.

They proceeded now for eleven days together very willingly, but then found the channel of the river divided itself, and one went away to the left, and the other to the right. They could
not

not judge which was the best to take ; but not questioning but that they would meet again soon, they took the southernmost channel, as being most direct in their latitude ; and thus they coursed for three or four days more, when they were obliged to put into the mouth of a little river that fell into the other, and made a good harbour for their little fleet.

Here, I say, they were obliged to put in for want of provisions, for they had eaten up all their Guinacoes, and their two tame bulls too, the last of which they soon repented, as will be shewn presently.

After they had been a hunting, and shot a couple of deer and a cow, with a kind of a hare, as large as an English fox, they set forward again very merry, and the more, because they had another

other little piece of a gold coast, where, for two days, they had very good luck again ; but judge how they were surpris'd, and in what a consternation they were, when coming down farther the same river, they heard a terrible noise in the river, as of a mighty cataract, or water-fall, which increased as they came forward, till it grew so loud, that they could not hear themselves speak, much less hear one another.

As they approached, it was the more frightful ; so at length, lest they should be hurried into it before they were aware, they went all on shore, doing all by signs and dumb postures, for it was impossible to hear any sound but that of the cataract.

Though the noise was so great, it was near six miles to the place from whence it came, which, when

when they perceived, some of them went back to bring on the boats, and so brought them as near the place as they durst, and ran them on shore into a little hollow part of the bank, just large enough to hold them.— When they had thus secured the boats, they went to view the water-fall; but how were they astonished, when they found, that there were no less than five water-falls, at the distance of about two miles from each other, some more, some less, and that the water fell from a prodigious height; so that it was impossible for any boat to launch down the cataract without being dashed in pieces.

The men now saw there was no remedy, but that they must lose the benefit of their five canoes, which had been so comfortable

fortable to them, and by which they had come above four hundred miles in a little time, with safety and pleasure.

These cataracts made the river perfectly useless to them for above twenty miles, and it was impossible to drag their canoes that length over land ; so, in short, they unloaded them, and for their own satisfaction, they turned one, the biggest of them, adrift, and let it go to the first cataract, placing themselves so beyond, that they might see it come down, which they did, and had the vexation of seeing it dashed all to pieces on the rocks below.

As there was no remedy, they plainly saw they must leave their boats behind them. And now, as I have said, they had time to repent killing their two tamed

bulls, who would have done them good service; but it was too late to look back upon what was done and over, so many days before. They had now no means left them, if they would go forward, but to take their baggage upon their shoulders, and travel on foot. The only help they had, was, that they had got five Guinacoes left, which, though they were hungry, and would fain have eaten, yet, as they carried at least five hundred weight of their luggage, they chose to fast and walk, rather than feast and work; so they went on as well as they could, till they got past these falls, which, though not above twenty miles, cost them five days labour; at the end of which they encamped again to refresh themselves, and consider of what was next to be done: They were thus
long

long upon this short journey for many reasons.

1. Because they were obliged to employ the best part of two days in hunting for their food, in which time, five of them swimming over the river to shoot at some black cattle, extremely fatigued themselves in pursuing them, but did, however, shoot five cows and bulls; but then it was at such a distance, that it was more pains to drag the flesh along to the river's side, than it was worth, only that they were indeed hunger-starved, and must have it.

2. They found still some little quantity of gold in the water; that is to say, below the falls, where the water, by falling with great force, had made a pit or hole of a vast depth, and had thrown up a shoal again, at per-

haps a mile distance, there they took up some gold, whenever the water was low enough to come at it.

3. The weight of their baggage made them travel heavy, and seldom above five or six miles a day.

Being now come to the open river, they thought of building more floats; but they were discouraged from this consideration by not knowing but in a few days march there might be more water-falls, and then all their labour would be lost; so they took up their tent, and began to travel again.

But here, as they kept the river close on board, as the seamen call it, they were at a full stop, by the coming in of another river from the South West, which, when it joined the river they
went

went along by, was above a quarter of a mile broad, and how to get over it they knew not.

They sent two men up the additional river some length, and he brought word, that it was indeed narrower by much, but nowhere fordable, but deep, and rapid.

At the same time, they sent two more nimble fellows down the coast of the great river, to see if there were any more waterfalls, who brought them word, there were none for upwards of sixty miles.

While they lay here, at the point of the influx, expecting the return of their scouts, they used what diligence they could in getting provisions; and among the rest, they killed three cows and a bull on the other side of the largest river; but not know-

ing how to bring them over, they at last concluded to go, as many as could swim, which was the better half of them, and sit down by it, and roast and broil upon the spot, as much as they could eat, and then bring with them as much as they could for their companions.

For this purpose, they got boughs of trees, and bound them together, then wrapped the meat in the hides and laid it on the wood, and made a number of little contrivances to convey it, so that no part of the meat was lost. What they got on their own side of the river, they made better shift with.

On the return of their scouts, they found there was no remedy, but to build some new vessels of one kind or other, to take in their baggage and provision which
they

they made after the manner of their first floats; for they found no trees large enough to make canoes; when therefore, they had made one great float, they resolved to make two small boats like yawls or skiffs, with which they might tow their large float or barge; and as this they might do with small timbers, so they found means to line them within and without with the bulls hides, and that, so dextrously joined, and lapped or rolled one over another, that no water came through, or but very little.

With these two boats they ferried over the small rivers with ease, each boat carrying six men, besides two to row; and when they were over the small rivers, the two boats served to tow their great punt or barge close by the shore.

The greatest difficulty was for tow-lines to draw the boats by, and those they supplied, by twisting a strong tough kind of flag or rush, which they found in the river, of which, with much application and labour, they made a kind of rope-yarn, and then twisting it again, made it very strong.

This was the voiture with which they conveyed themselves down quite to the sea, and one of these boats it was that we spied, as said above, coming to us in the bay.

They had yet above four hundred and fifty miles to the sea, nor could they at any time tell or guess how far off it might be. They went on more or less every day, but it was but slowly, and not without great labour, both of rowing and towing:
Their

Their provisions also cost them much pains, for they were obliged first to hunt and kill it, and then to bring it to the camp, which however was always close to the river's side.

After they had travelled thus some time, following the course of the river, they came to a place, where, on a sudden, they could see no farther bank of the river, but it looked all water like the sea. This they could not account for, so the next day, they rowed towards it with one of their little boats, when they were surprized to find that it was the Northern branch of the river, which they had seen go off before they came at the water-falls, which river being now increased with many other great waters, was now so great, that the mouth of it might be said to be four or

five miles over, and rather received the river they were on, into it, than ran into that; but after this, it contracted itself again, though still it was to be supposed near a mile and a half over.

They were far from being pleased at this conjunction of the waters, because the great water being thus joined, they found the stream or current more violent, and the water upon the least stirring of the wind, much more turbulent than it was before; and as their great float drew but little water, and swam flat upon the surface, she was ready to founder upon every occasion: This obliged them almost every night, to seek for some little cove or creek to run her into, as into a harbour, to preserve her; for when the wind
blew

blew from shore, they had enough to do to keep her from driving off from the river, and when there was but little wind, yet it made a rippling or chopping of the waves, that they had much difficulty to keep them from filling her.

All the country on the side of this river, was a little higher ground than ordinary, which was its security from land-floods, and their security too; for sometimes the river was seen to rise, and that so much as to overflow a great extent of land on the other side. Hence, perhaps the other side might be esteemed the most fruitful, and perhaps might be the better land, if it had but half the art and industry of an European nation to assist the natural fertility of the soil, by keeping the water in its bounds,

banking and fencing the meadows from the inundations, and freshes, which were frequently sent down from the Andes, and from the country adjoining.

But as it now was, those lower lands lay great part of the year under water; whether it was the better or worse for the soil, that no judgment can be made of, till some people come to settle there, to whom it may be worth while to make experiments of that kind.

This part of the country they were now in, resembled, as they hinted, the county of Dorsetshire, and the Downs about Salisbury, only, not lying so high from the surface of the water, and the soil being a good fruitful dark mould, not a chalky solid rock, as in the county about

bout Salisbury, and some other parts.

Here they found a greater quantity of deer than they had seen in all their journey, which they often had the good luck to kill for their supply of food, the creatures not being so shy and wild, as they had found farther within the country.

It may be noted here, and it is very observable, that in all this journey, I could not learn, that they saw either wolf or fox, bear or lion, or, indeed, any other ravenous creature, which they had the least reason to be shy or afraid of, or which, indeed, were frightful to the deer; and this, perhaps, may be the reason, why the number of the latter animals is so great, which, as I have said, is greater there than at other places.

After

After they had feasted themselves here for some days, they resolved to begin their new kind of navigation, and see what they could make of it; but they went very heavily along, and every now and then, as I have said, the water was too rough for them, and they were fain to put into harbour, and sometimes lie there two or three days: However, they plyed their time as well as they could, and sometimes the current setting over to their side, and running strong by the shore, they would go at a great rate, infomuch, that one time, they said, they went above thirty miles in a day, having, besides the current, a little gale of wind right a-stern.

They reckoned, that they went near two hundred miles in this manner, for they made the best
of

of it; and at the end of these two hundred miles, it was, by their reckoning, that our five men, who travelled into the country so far, found them, when they saw the hat swimming down the stream; which hat, it seems, one of them let fall overboard in the night.

They had, I say, travelled thus far with great difficulty, the river being so large; but, as they observed it growing larger and larger, the farther they went, so, they said, they did not doubt, but that, in a little more, they should come to the sea.

They also observed, that now, as they found the waters larger, and the rivers wider, they killed more fowls than formerly, and particularly, more of the duck-foot kind, though they could not perceive any sea fowls, or
such

such as they had been used to. They saw a great many wild swans, and some geese, as also duck, mallard, and teal; and these, I say, increased as they drew nearer the sea.

They could give very little account of the fish which the rivers produced, though they sometimes caught a few in the smaller river; but, as they had neither fishing-hook or nets, which was the only omission, in my fitting them out, they had no opportunity to furnish themselves.

They had, likewise, no salt; neither was it possible to furnish them with any, so they cured their meat in the sun, and seasoned it with that excellent sauce called hunger.

The account they gave, of discovering our five men, was thus.

They

They had been for two days, pretty successful in their navigation, as I have described it; but were obliged to stop, and put in at the mouth of a little river, which made them a good harbour; the reason of their stay was, they had no victuals, so by consent, they all went a hunting, and at night, having shot two guinacoes and a deer, they went to supper together in their great tent; and having fed heartily, on such good provisions, they began to be merry, and the captain and officers, having a little store left, though not much, they pulled out their bottles, and drank every one a dram to their good voyage, and to the merry meeting of their ships, and gave every man the same.

But

But their mirth was increased beyond expressing, when two of the men, who were without the tent door, cried out, it lightened. One said, he saw the flash, he was sure, and the other said, he thought he saw it too; but, as it happened, their backs were towards the East, so that they did not see the occasion.

This lightening was certainly the first flash of one of our five mens rockets, or the breaking of it, and the stars that were at the end of it, up in the air.

When the captain heard the men say it lightened, he jumped from his seat, and called aloud to them, to tell which way; but they foolishly replied, to the North West, which was the way their faces were, when they saw it; but the word was no sooner spoken, but the two fellows, fell
a hol-

a hollowing and roaring, as if they were distracted, and said, they saw a rocket rise up in the air to the Eastward.

So nimble were the men, at this word, that they were all out of the tent in a moment, and saw the last flash of the rocket with the stars, which spreading themselves in the air, shone with the usual bright light, that it is known those fire works give.

This made them all set up a shout of joy, as if they imagined their fellows, who were yet many miles from them, should hear them; but the captain and officers, who knew what they were to do on this occasion, ran to their baggage, and took out their own rockets and other materials, and prepared to answer the signal.

They

They were on a low ground; but at less than a mile distance, the land went ascending up to a round crown or knoll pretty high; away they ran thither, and set up a frame in an instant: But, as they were making these preparations, behold, to confirm their news, they saw a third rocket rise up in the air, in the same place as before.

It was near an hour from the first flash, as they called it, before they could get all things ready; but then they fired two rockets from the adjoining hill, soon after one another, and after that, at about ten minutes distance of time, a third, which was just as by agreement, and was perfectly understood, the rockets performing extremely well.

Upon this, they saw another single rocket rise up, which was
to

to let them know, that their former was seen and understood.

This was, you will conclude, a very joyful night; and the next morning, they went all hands to work at the boats, getting out of the creek early, and made the best of their way; however, with all they could do, they could not go above twelve miles that day, for the current setting over to the other shore, had left them, and in some places, they would rather have an eddy stream against them; and this discouraged them a little, but depending that they were near their port, and that their friends were not far off, they were very chearful. At night they looked out again for rockets, the sight of which failed not to rejoice their hearts again; and, with this addition, that it appeared,

appeared, their friends were not above four or five miles off; they answered the rockets punctually, and proceeding early the next day, they met in the morning, joyfully enough, as has been said.

We were overjoyed at meeting, as may be easily conceived; but to see the pitiful boat, or periagua, they came on board in, a little surprized us, for, indeed, it was a wonder they should be able to make it swim under them, especially when they came out into the open sea.

As soon as we had the boat in reach, we haled it up into the ship for a relick, and taking two of the men with us, we manned out all our ships boats to go and fetch the rest, for they were, as these men told us, about seventeen miles up the
river

river still, and could not come any farther, their boats being not able to bring them along, and the river growing very broad and dangerous. The eldest of my midshipmen came in this first boat, but the captain and the other stayed with the men, who were very unruly, and frequently quarrelling and wrangling about their wealth, which, indeed, was very considerable; but they were above twice as far up the river as the men told us, having halted after the boat left them.

When our boats came to them, and took them in, I ordered they should be set on shore, and their tents put up there, till I had settled matters a little with them, having had an account how mutinous and fractious they had been; and I made them

them all stay there till I had fully adjusted every thing with them about their treasure, which, indeed, was so much, that they scarce knew how to govern themselves under the thought of it.

Here I proposed conditions to them at first, that all the gold should be shared before they went on board, and that it should be put on board the ship, as goods for every man's single account; that I would give them bills of lading for it, and I offered to swear to them, to deliver it into every man's possession, separately, at the first port we should come to an anchor at in England, or France; and that, at that said port, they should every man have the one hundred pounds I had promised them, as above, for the undertaking

taking this journey, delivered to them in gold dust, to that amount; and that they alone, should have full liberty to go on shore with it, and go whither they would, no man whatever, but themselves, being allowed to set foot on shore in the same place, distress excepted. This they insisted on, because they had done some things, they said, which, if I would, I might bring some of them, perhaps to the gallows. However, I promised to forgive them, and to enquire no more after it.

In a word, there had been a scuffle among them, in which one of their canoes was upset, as was said, and one of their number drowned, at the same time when they lost a great part of their gold; and some were

VOL. III. L thought

thought to have done it maliciously too.

But, as I had no occasion to trouble them on that score, not having been upon the spot when it was done ; so having made this capitulation with them, I performed it punctually, and set them all on shore, with their wealth, in the river of Garonne in France ; their own gold, their one hundred pounds-worth reward for their journey ; their wages and their share of pearl, and other advantages, made them very rich ; for their cargo when cast up on shore, amounted to about four hundred pounds a man : How they disposed of themselves, or their money, I never gave myself the trouble to enquire, and if I had, it is none of my business to give an account of it here.

We

We dismissed also, near four-score more of our men, afterwards, in a little creek, which was at their own request; for most of them having been of the Madagascar men, and by consequence, pirates, they were willing to be easy, and I was as willing to make them so, and therefore, cleared with as many of them as desired it. But I return to our ship.

Having thus made a long capitulation with our travellers, I took them all on board, and had leisure enough to have a long narration from them of their voyage, and from which account, I take the liberty to recommend that part of America, as the best, and most advantageous part of the whole globe for an English colony; the climate, the soil, and above all, the easy communication

with the mountains of Chili, recommending it beyond any place that I ever saw or read of, as I shall farther make appear by itself.

We had nothing now to do, but to make the best of our way for England, and setting sail from the mouth of the river Camerones, so the Spaniards call it, the eighteenth of January, in which we had a more difficult and unpleasant voyage, than in any other part of our way, chiefly because, being a rich ship, and not knowing how affairs stood in Europe, I kept to the Northward, as far as the banks of Newfoundland, steering thence to the Coast of Galicia, where we touched as above; after which we went through the channel, and arrived safe in Dunkirk road, the twelfth of April; and from
thence

thence gave private notice of our good fortune to our merchants and owners; two of whom came over to us, and received at our hands, such a treasure, as gave them reason to be very well satisfied with their engagement. But, to my great grief, my particular friend, the merchant, who put us upon this adventure, and who was the principal means of our making the discoveries that have been here mentioned and described, was dead before our return; which, if it had not happened, this new scheme of a trade round the world, had perhaps, not been made publick, till it had been put in practice, by a set of merchants designed to be concerned in it, from the New Austrian Netherlands.

END OF THE VOYAGE.

The following NARRATIVE was lately published in a Provincial Paper; as it is a very interesting relation, I trust it will be acceptable to the reader.

IN consequence of the late determination of Government to send some convicts to Botany Bay,* with a design of establishing a colony in New South Wales, an order lately came down to the keeper of Norwich gaol, to send such female

* See Vol. I. page 57, of this work of Mr. Daniel De Foe's Voyage Round the World, by a Course never failed before; where he, Mr. De Foe, gives a description of this place, and the advantages that would accrue to England by our Government planting a colony there; and which very place the late enterprising Captain James Cook, in the third volume of his Voyage published by Dr. Hawksworth, gave the name of Botany Bay,

female convicts as were then in prison to Plymouth, to be in readiness to go upon that expedition.

Three unhappy women, who had been a long while in the castle under sentence of transportation, were accordingly sent, and were committed to the care of Mr. Simpson, turnkey of the prison.

One of the unfortunate females was the mother of an infant about five months old, a very fine babe, whom she had suckled from its birth.

The father of the child was likewise a felon under a similar sentence, and has been in prison more than three years.

He had repeatedly expressed a wish to be married to this woman, and though seldom permitted to see the child, he disco-

vered a remarkable fondness for it; and that the mother's only comfort was derived from its smiles, was evident from her peculiarly tender manner of nursing it.

When the order came down for her removal, the man was much distressed, and very importunate to attend the woman, and application was made to the minister to permit him to go, but so many similar applications having been made, this could not be complied with.

The miserable woman was therefore obliged to go without the man, who offered to be her husband, that he might be her companion and protector during a long and melancholy voyage, and in a distant and unknown land.

The child, however, was still
her

her property, as the laws of England, which are distinguished by the spirit of humanity which framed them, forbid so cruel an act as that of separating an infant from its mother's breast.

When Mr. Simpson arrived at Plymouth with his party, he found that they were to be put on board a hulk, which lies there till the ship which goes to the South Sea is ready to take them.

He therefore took a boat, and went to the vessel to deliver up his prisoners.

Some forms, which the gaoler of Norwich had not been apprized of, having been omitted, the captain of the hulk at first refused to take them, and these miserable creatures were kept three hours in an open boat, before they were received into

their new abode of wretchedness.

When they were admitted, the captain finding that one of them had an infant, peremptorily refused to take it on board, saying, that he had no orders to take children; neither the intreaties of Mr. Simpson, nor the agonies of the poor wretch, could prevail upon the captain even to permit the babe to remain till instructions could be received from the ministry. Simpson was therefore obliged to take the child, and the frantic mother was led to her cell, execrating the cruelty of the man under whose care she was now placed, and vowing to put an end to her life as soon as she could obtain the means.

Shocked at the unparalleled brutality of the captain, and his humanity

manity not less affected by the agonies of the poor woman, and the situation of the helpless babe, he resolved still, if possible, to get it restored to her. No way was left but an immediate personal application to Lord Sydney; and having once before been with his Lordship on a business of humanity, he was encouraged to hope he should succeed, could he but have an interview with him.

He therefore immediately went back to Plymouth, and set off in the first coach to London, carrying the child all the way on his knee, and feeding it at the different inns he arrived at as well as he could.

When he came to London, he placed the child with a careful woman, and instantly posted to Lord Sydney's; neither his Lord-

ship nor his secretary were to be spoken to, at least this was told him when he addressed the person in waiting at the office; but humanity will not be restrained by forms; acting under the influence of a superior power, it moves forward unchecked by the fear of offending any earthly one.

Mr. Simpson was denied admittance, but in vain, for he pressed forward into one of the offices, and told his story to one of the secretaries, who attended properly to it, and promised to do all in his power to promote the object of his humane petition, but feared it would be impossible for him to see lord Sydney for several days; he begged, however, of this gentleman to prepare an order for the restoration of the child, and determined

mined to wait in the hall for the chance of seeing his Lordship pass, that he might prevail on him to sign it.

Fortunately, not long after, he saw Lord Sydney descend the stairs; he instantly ran to him. His Lordship very naturally shewed an unwillingness at first to attend to an application made to him in so strange and abrupt a manner; but Mr. Simpson immediately related the reason of his intrusion, and described, as he felt, the exquisite misery he had lately been a witness to, expressing his fears, lest in the instant he was pleading for her, the unhappy woman, in the wildness of her despair, should have deprived herself of existence.

Lord Sydney was greatly affected, and paid much attention to the particular circumstances of
his

his narration, and instantly promised that the child should be restored, commending at the same time Mr. Simpson's spirit and humanity.

Encouraged by this, he made a further appeal to his Lordship's humanity in behalf of the father of the child, which proved equally successful; for his Lordship ordered, that he likewise should be sent to Plymouth to accompany the child and its mother, directing, at the same time, that they should be married before they went on board; and adding, that he would himself pay the fees.

One of his Lordship's secretaries wrote immediately to Plymouth, that the woman might be informed of the success of Mr. Simpson's application; and he, after visiting the child, and giving

ing directions that it might be taken care of in his absence, set off for Norwich, where he arrived on Wednesday afternoon, and communicated the glad tidings to the unhappy father of the child.

The poor man, who is a fine healthy young fellow, seemed very grateful to Lord Sydney and to Mr. Simpson, was made very happy by this change of circumstances ; and it is hoped he may, notwithstanding his past situation, turn out an useful individual of the new community.

He set off on Friday night, accompanied by Mr. Simpson, who, after the fatigues, anxieties, and vexation of his first journey to Plymouth, having travelled three days and nights without sleep, no doubt will be amply recompensed by the satisfaction he must

must experience, in having thus been the means of rescuing these unhappy people from a situation of distress scarcely to be equalled.

It is proper to observe, that Captain Phillips, who is to go out with the convicts to Botany Bay, is a man of very different disposition to the person alluded to in this narrative; but he, unfortunately, had no power to interfere.

The conclusion of the above relation cannot be more properly given, than in the words of Mr. Simpson himself, who wrote the following letter to a gentleman in Bath.

“ Dear Sir,

“ It is with the utmost pleasure that I inform you of my safe
arrival

arrival with my little charge at Plymouth: but it would require an abler pen than mine to describe the joy that the mother received her infant and her intended husband with. Suffice it to say, that their transports, that the tears which flowed from their eyes, with the innocent smiles of the babe, on sight of the mother, who had saved her milk for it, drew the tears likewise from my eyes; and it was with the utmost regret that I parted with the child, after having travelled with it on my lap for upwards of seven hundred miles backwards and forwards. But the blessings I received at the different inns on the road, have amply paid me.

I am, with great respect,

Your humble servant,

JOHN SIMPSON."

Plymouth, Nov. 16, 1786.

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